

Winter Coats and Car Seats - Check for Safety!

Thick Coats and Snowsuits Reduce Car Seat Safety

As a general rule, winter coats shouldn't be worn underneath the harness of a car seat. A bulky coat can result in the harness being too loose to be effective.

Here is a simple way to see if the coat is too big to wear under the harness:

1. While the child is wearing a coat, place them in the child seat and fasten the harness. Tighten the harness until you can no longer pinch any of the harness webbing with your thumb and forefinger.
2. Without loosening the harness, remove the child from the seat.
3. Remove the coat, put the child back in the seat and buckle the harness straps.
4. If you can now pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger, then the coat is too bulky.
5. If the coat cannot be worn safely under the harness, here are a few suggestions to keep your child safe and warm in a child seat:
 - After securing the child in a child seat, turn the coat around and put it on backward with their arms through the arm holes and the back of the coat worn like a blanket
 - Consider a lightweight jacket or sweater and a stocking cap
 - Or, after fastening the child's harness securely, simply tuck a blanket over the child to keep them warm.

For additional information go to [Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office](#)



Incorrect



Correct