

Keep **Warm** and **Safe**

Car Seat Safety in Winter

Car seats are not made to be used with bulky clothes. The thicker the clothing, the looser the harness. In a crash, a loose harness can cause the child to be ejected.

The straps of the car-seat harness need to fit snugly against the child's chest. Remember: a shoulder strap that can be pinched will need to be cinched.

How to Keep a Child Warm and Safe



▶▶▶ Use bulky clothes and blankets over the harness, never under.

▶▶▶ Babies in rear-facing infant car seats can use blankets and/or an elasticized car seat cover after being buckled into their seat.



▶▶▶ Blankets cannot be tucked under the harness or behind the baby's back.

Toddlers in rear or forward-facing seats have two options:

- Remove coat before buckling. After the harness has been secured, put on backward with the child's arms through the sleeves.
- The jacket-pull-thru method can be used to secure the harness to the child's body. (See illustrations on left.)



888-VMT-SEAT (868-7328)

BeSeatSmart.org

Shop and Sleep without the Car Seat



Car Seat
Safety Information
for Parents & Caregivers

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and best practices recommend against placing an infant car seat on a shopping cart. The cart becomes top heavy and can tip, causing head and neck trauma to the child, possibly even death.

- Use the pre-weighted infant seat shopping carts available in most stores.
- Wear the child in a baby wrap.
- Place child in a stroller.

Ensure safe sleep out of the car seat.

Car seats are designed to protect children *in the car*. They are not made to be used as an additional bed for the child. In a car, the baby is seated at an angle, but if the car seat is sitting on a floor or table, the baby is not at the correct angle which could restrict the baby's breathing.

- Car seats save lives—in the car.
- Car seats should not be used as a replacement for a crib.
- Remove a sleeping baby from the car seat when arriving at a destination.



Learn more online BeSeatSmart.org