WINTER COATS AND CAR SEATS: WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL

Fluffy padding in a coat can flatten out in a car crash and add extra space under the harness. Too much space can cause your child to get hurt by the straps or slip through the straps and be thrown from the seat.

As a general rule, thick clothing, including winter coats and snowsuits, should not be worn underneath the harness of a car seat.

Dress your little one in warm, thin, and snug layers with a hat, mittens, and winter boots.

Tighten the straps of the car seat harness. If you can pinch the straps of the car seat harness, it needs to be tightened to fit snugly against your child's chest.

Use a blanket over the car seat or place the coat backwards over your child.

Taking a few extra minutes to ensure your car seat is secure and there is nothing bulky between the child and the straps is well worth it. You can then travel with peace of mind.

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