



# K-State Extension Connection

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The mission of K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences is to link education with life experiences to help people improve their lives, their families and their communities. Family and Consumer Sciences professionals support essential life skills including Community Development, Healthy Lifestyle Choices, Leadership & Volunteer Development, Relationship Development and Resource Management.

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Title: Bulky Coats and Child Safety Seats Don't Mix

Winter is here and keeping the children bundled up and warm is a big job, but remember: as a general rule, winter coats should not be worn underneath the harness of a car seat. A bulky coat under a child seat harness can result in the harness being too loose to be effective in a crash. Here is a simple way to check if your child's coat is too big to wear under their harness:

Put the coat on your child, set 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.

- Without loosening the harness, remove your child from the child seat.
- Take the coat off, and put your child back in the child seat and buckle the harness straps, which are still adjusted as they were when he was wearing the coat.
- If you can now pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger, then the coat is too bulky to be worn under the harness.

If you find that the coat cannot be safely worn under the harness, here are a couple things you can do to keep your child safe and warm in his/her child seat:

- After securing your child in his/her child seat, turn the coat around and put it on backward with their arms through the arm holes and the back of the coat acting like a blanket.
- Lay a blanket over your child to keep him/her warm

Sadly, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children, due in large part to the nonuse or improper use of child safety seats and seat belts--every 34 seconds 1 child under age 13 is involved in a crash. Child safety seats and booster seats save lives. They offer the absolute best protection for children in the event of a crash. So give those bulky coats a safety seat check to insure your child is safe before you pull out of the driveway.

Source:

<http://www.ktsro.org/child-passenger-safety>

For additional information, contact the Wildcat Extension District, Crawford County, 620-724-8233, Labette County, 620-784-5337, Montgomery County, 620-331-2690, Pittsburg Office, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP), 620-232-1930.

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