

Baby, it's Cold Outside!



Child Passenger Safety Resources:

WINS (Wisconsin Information Network for Safety)
(866) 511-9467

Safe Kids Child Passenger Safety
(608) 890-8999

Every Ride a Safe Ride Program
Dean Foundation
(608) 827-2327

Kohl's Safety Center
American Family Children's Hospital
(608) 890-8043

Protecting your baby from the cold can be a challenge. Here are some suggestions from WINS to help keep your child warm and safe during travel.



- Always properly secure children until at least age 8 in an approved and age appropriate child safety seat while riding in a motor vehicle – it's the law in Wisconsin!
- It is important that the harness straps of your child's safety seat fit snugly. Snow suits and heavy jackets for any child are not recommended. Use a thinner jacket or fleece, or remove the jacket before putting your child in the restraint. You may add a blanket over your child after properly placing him/her in the harness straps. Be sure to adjust the safety harness straps to fit snugly.
- When possible, get inside the vehicle and close the door before securing your child in the car seat. If this is not possible, try to work from the side of the car that is out of the direct wind. These efforts will help keep your child warm and make it easier for you to take the time to properly secure your child in his safety seat.
- Do not place items on the vehicle seat that will interfere with proper fit and installation of your child's safety seat (such as heavy rubber mats, or plastic bags which could cause suffocation).
- When possible, store your child's safety seat at room temperature so it doesn't rob your child of body heat.
- Always keep warm clothes and blankets in the vehicle for ALL passengers in case of an emergency.

Specifically for Infants

- Dress baby in clothes with legs so the harness straps fit between the legs.
- Avoid using heavy snow suits for babies. A baby's shoulder and neck muscles are not fully developed and heavy layers of clothing make it difficult to correctly position the safety seat harness straps.
- Dressing an infant too warmly will cause the baby to sweat. Try using light weight layers instead. Use adult socks to cover the baby's hands and feet for additional warmth.
- Cover an infant's face when outdoors in cold weather. Babies will hold their breath when the air is cold and blows in their face. Cover the face **ONLY** when outdoors – never in the car or indoors.

