



## Winter Coats and Car Seats: Not a Safe Choice

We know you want your little ones to be warm this winter season, but wearing bulky coats or snowsuits can be very dangerous for your child when buckled into a car seat.

### Consider these recommendations:

**Avoid Bulky Winter Clothes.** Harness straps are designed to fit snugly on a child's body. It may look like the straps are snug over a puffy coat; however, looks can be deceiving. A bulky coat can compress in the event of a crash, causing the car seat harness to be too loose. This puts your child at a much greater risk of injury and ejection.

**Ensure Comfort and Safety at the Same Time.** To keep your child warm, consider dressing the child in a few thin layers, as well as socks, shoes, gloves, and a warm hat. After placing the child in the car seat, tighten the harness first, and then place a blanket OVER the straps. Another option is to put the child's coat on backwards OVER the harness. Be cautious to not overheat the child, especially infants, after the car has warmed up.

To have a car seat checked by a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, or for further questions, call 417-820-7233.

### Mercy Injury Prevention Center

417-820-7233

[mercy.net/injuryprevention](http://mercy.net/injuryprevention)

Check us out on Facebook - Mercy Injury Prevention Center and Twitter @IPCMercy.



Mercy is a  
proud leader of

**SAFE**  
**KIDS**  
SPRINGFIELD

SPR\_MK\_28917 (2/2/16)

**Mercy**  **Kids**

*Every child. Every need. Every day.*