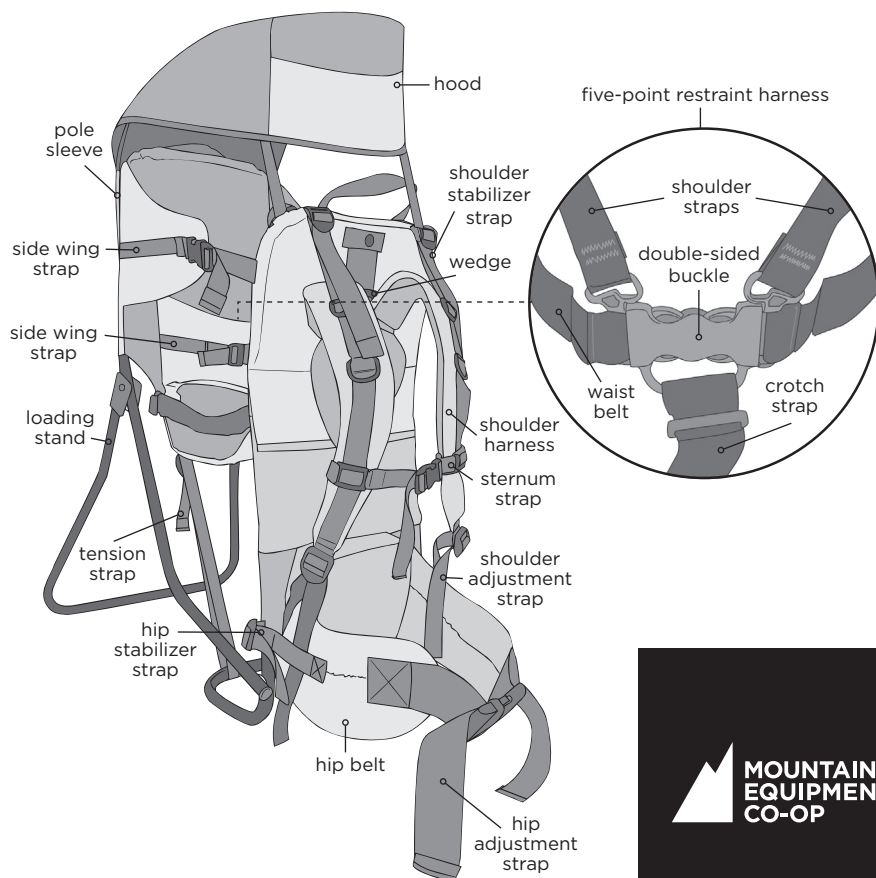


# MEC HAPPY TRAILS CHILD CARRIER

For the safety of your child, read these instructions carefully and follow them completely. Keep these instructions with the carrier so that any potential user can refer to them.

## ➤ WARNINGS!

- Use the five-point restraint harness at all times to prevent your child from falling out of the carrier.
- Use the carrier for walking and hiking only.
- Use only for children who can sit upright unsupported.
- Do not use the carrier as a car seat.
- Do not use the carrier as a chair, on a bicycle, or for skiing or climbing.
- Never leave your child unattended in the carrier.



 MOUNTAIN  
EQUIPMENT  
CO-OP

## SHARING THE LOAD

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The diaper pack detaches for separate carrying. Unclip the side-release buckles (two at the top, and one at either bottom corner); slip the webbing shoulder straps out of their pocket and clip them to the lower attachment buckle halves.

## GETTING STARTED

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- 1** Pull the loading stand outward until it clicks into place.
- 2** Locate the pair of tension straps running from the underside of the child seat and around the lower tubing of the carrier frame. Pull down on the free ends of these straps until all slack is gone from both. This tensioning is essential to prevent the carrier from folding shut while in use.
- 3** Tighten the side wing straps.

## ADJUSTING THE CARRIER FOR YOU

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Proper adjustment will let you carry most of the weight on your hips rather than on your shoulders, greatly increasing your comfort. For best results, carry out the following steps in the order shown:

- 1** Loosen the shoulder adjustment straps, the shoulder stabilizer straps, and the hip stabilizer straps, then slip the carrier onto your back.
- 2** Fasten the hip belt buckle and tighten the webbing until the hip belt sits snugly yet comfortably around your hips. Note that you can take up tension on either side of the buckle; this allows you to keep the buckle at the centre of your waist for maximum comfort. When the belt is comfortably snug, tighten the hip stabilizer straps to prevent the carrier from swaying too much as you walk.
- 3** Adjust the shoulder harness wedge by pulling up on its ring tab and sliding the wedge up or down; release the ring to lock the wedge in place. Position the wedge top roughly level with the nape of your neck. (Having another person adjust the wedge while you wear the carrier is easiest. If you are working alone, remove the carrier to make the adjustments, and check the results in a mirror.)

- 4 Adjust the shoulder adjustment straps until the shoulder pads rest gently on your shoulders, curving smoothly over them. Tighten the shoulder stabilizer straps tight to bring the carrier closer to your back: this increases carrying comfort and stability. The shoulder pads should still be following the curve of your shoulders; if tightening the shoulder stabilizer straps has pulled the pads away from your shoulders, loosen them, and readjust the shoulder adjustment straps and/or the shoulder harness wedge.
- 5 Adjust the vertical position of the sternum strap for greatest comfort (most people prefer it between their solar plexus and sternum). Fasten the sternum strap and tighten it just enough to hold the shoulder straps in place.

## ADJUSTING THE CARRIER FOR YOUR CHILD

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- 1 Complete all the steps in Getting Started.
- 2 With the carrier on a floor or on firm, level ground, place one foot on the loading stand to stabilize it.
- 3 Place the child into the carrier seat facing towards the front, with their legs projecting on either side of the seat.
- 4 The child's shoulders should be level with or slightly above the points at which the shoulder straps of the five-point restraint harness are attached to the carrier. This ensures that the shoulder straps run over the child's shoulders and not alongside the child's head. The level of the child's shoulders can be changed by adjusting the height of the seat bottom as follows. First, remove the child from the carrier. On the outside of the padded front tongue of the child seat is a snap hook clipped to a D-ring; adjust the seat level by moving the snap hook to the higher or lower D-ring as needed.
- 5 With the child in the seat, adjust the crotch strap of the five-point restraint harness so the double-sided female buckle component sits over the child's midsection, between the navel and the lower rib cage. Tuck the leftover free end of this strap into the fleece oversleeve.
- 6 Adjust the shoulder and waist belts of the restraint harness so the straps meet evenly at the centre when the male buckle components are snapped into place. All straps must be as tight as comfortably possible. ***The child is not safe if these straps are loose.*** Tuck the leftover ends of all straps into their fleece oversleeves.

Use the restraint harness at all times to prevent injuries to your child.  
***Failure to use the restraint harness could result in your child climbing or falling out of the carrier.***

## **PLACING THE CARRIER ON YOUR BACK**

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The safest and easiest way to put the carrier on your back is to have another adult lift it carefully into place. If you must put on the carrier alone, this is the recommended method:

- 1** Ensure that the hip belt and sternum strap are unbuckled and the shoulder adjustment straps are loose enough to admit your arms.
- 2** Squat down facing the front of the carrier. Place one knee on the ground for stability. Carefully lift the carrier by the shoulder straps and support it on top of your other leg.
- 3** Insert one arm through its shoulder strap. Gently pivot the carrier around onto your back, sliding your free arm beneath the other shoulder strap.
- 4** Stand up. Centre the carrier on your back with the weight evenly distributed. Place the hip belt over your hipbones and tighten the belt.
- 5** If necessary, re-adjust the shoulder harness. Buckle the chest strap.
- 6** To reduce the likelihood of it catching on objects, fold the loading stand back towards the carrier.

## **ATTACHING THE HOOD**

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- 1** With the hood's window facing the shoulder pads, slip the pole ends into the vertical pole sleeves at the top back corners of the carrier.
- 2** Slip the short webbing straps through the plastic D-rings sewn on either side of the cargo pocket on the back of the carrier. Fasten the press snaps.
- 3** Run the front hood straps through the small loops at the top front corners of the carrier (just outside the shoulder stabilizer straps). Fasten the Velcro®.

## **CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS**

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Hand wash with a sponge and a mild detergent. Air dry.