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instruction manual



The Educational Training Centre "Scuola del Portare – Natural Parenting & Babywearing®" has officially recognised Koala Cuddle Wrap stretchy baby carrier as meeting the quality standards of what is considered "good babywearing".







GLOSSARY

- 1. Upper edge
- 2. Bottom edge
- 3. Middle Point
- 4. Bands
- 5. Gather (in your hands)







BELLY HUG WITH A STRETCHY WRAP (BH)

















TRIPLE SUPPORT - POCKET WRAP CROSS CARRY (PWCC)



















FRONT DOUBLE HAMMOCK WITH STRETCHY WRAP (FDH)



















FRONT DOUBLE HAMMOCK WITH STRETCHY WRAP (FDH)



























1. INTRODUCING KOALA CUDDLE WRAP STRETCHY

Koala Cuddle Wrap *Stretchy* is a soft, elastic baby wrap, suitable for use from birth. Made of 100% cotton, it is super-comfortable in both summer and winter. It is a soft (non-structured) one way stretchy wrap, meaning it stretches in one direction only, in the vertical direction. It can be used to carry your baby in various ways and accompanies your baby as they transition from the heart-to-heart position to side and back babywearing positions.

Koala Cuddle Wrap *Stretchy* can also be used during the third trimester of pregnancy to support your bump and distribute weight evenly across the back area.

Ideal for children up to 10 Kg (tested and approved up to a maximum of 15 Kg).

Koala Cuddle Wrap Stretchycan be used right from the very first days of a newborn baby's life for two reasons: It makes the transition from womb to mum and dad's arms as natural as possible. During those first weeks following the birth, a young infant is still entirely dependent on their mum (and with time also on their dad) and the need for physical contact is vital for them. A baby carrier helps to satisfy this primal need and to increase the bond with daddy as they get to know each other after having spent 9 months inside mum's belly. A baby adopts the same position they had when in the womb, curled up with their legs bent in an M shape and knees higher than their bottom. This is a physiological position which favours motor development.



Is this your first experience with babywearing? It's only normal that you may struggle a little at the beginning. Don't get discouraged, you'll soon get the hang of it!

Here are a few tips to help:

 Make sure you have put your Koala Cuddle Band Stretchy on correctly by following the instructions in this manual.

• Introduce your baby gradually to their sling, using it initially for short periods at a time each day.





2. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT! KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Ci raccomandiamo di leggere subito con attenzione prima di utilizzare il prodotto.

We recommend that you read this manual carefully before using the product.

Prior to use, remove and discard any plastic bags and all other packaging components or keep them out of reach of children. It is recommended that such items be disposed of separately in accordance with current legislation.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY:

- Follow these instructions carefully when using the product.
- Do not allow anyone to use this item without reading the instructions.
- Only use this product with babies weighing under 10kg (tested and approved up to a maximum of 15 Kg).
- SUFFOCATION HAZARD! Babies under 4 months old may suffocate in this product if their face is pressed tightly against your body. Babies at greatest risk of suffocation include those born prematurely and those with respiratory problems.
- Check often that the baby's nose and mouth are uncovered, that their face is clearly visible and that airways are unobstructed.
- Check regularly that the infant isn't in a position where they are curled up with their chin resting on their chest, as this position can restrict breathing and may cause suffocation.

- If your baby is premature, underweight or has been diagnosed with a specific health condition, consult your doctor before using the baby wrap.
- Check that your baby's head is properly supported.
- The baby wrap is designed for carrying an infant when they are always faced towards the wearer.
- The wrap is also designed for use during pregnancy to support the bump.

• The wrap should only be used to carry one baby at a time. It can also be used with a pair of twins whose total weight does not exceed 10 kg, but we recommend that you consult an expert in babywearing prior to use in this way, along with any other babywearing position not indicated in this manual.

- Check the wrap regularly for signs of wear such as loose stitching and torn fabric.
- Always ensure that the child is positioned safely

inside the wrap in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for use.

- Never leave a baby inside a carrier wrap that is not being worn.
- Do not use Koala Cuddle Wrap *Stretchy* whilst engaging in activities that expose your baby to a heat source or chemicals, such as cooking or cleaning.
- Do not use the wrap during sporting activities such as running, cycling, skiing.
- Never use the wrap whilst driving or when a passenger in a motor vehicle.
- Keep the wrap out of reach of children when not in use.
- FALLING HAZARD! Leaning, bending, or stumbling can cause the baby to fall out. Keep one hand on the infant as you move.
- As your baby becomes more mobile and active, the risk of falling increases, so pay particular attention.

- Always bear in mind that when you carry your infant inside a wrap your balance may be affected by their movements.
- The Koala Cuddle Wrap *Stretchy* can be used in multiple carrying positions other than those indicated in this manual (e.g., carrying on your back or with twins). In these cases, we recommend that you consult a professional babywearing expert who can perform a thorough assessment and recommend, as well as teach you, the most suitable carrying position and tie method right for you.

A- BELLY HUG WITH A STRETCHY WRAP (BH)

- Take hold of the wrap from the middle point.
- Gather up to two-thirds of the wrap between your hands (keeping your hands close together).
- Place the gathered part of the wrap across your bump and wrap it around your waist. The non-gathered part should stick out just like a skirt.
- Position the wrap up to your kidneys.

• One hand holds both bands of the wrap on the gathered side only, the other hand takes hold of the opposite band of the wrap on the gathered side. Each hand will have a hold of the band on the opposite side.

- By pulling on both ends, the wrap crosses at the back.
- Move your hands to the upper edges of the wrap.
- Bring both bands of the wrap slightly higher than your shoulders and shake them out like butterfly wings.
- Let each band fall over each shoulder.
- Drape the band over each shoulder again, with the fabric over your bump (at a comfortable level of tension).
- Tuck the bands inside the panel that is hugging your bump.
- Bring both bands behind your back and cross them over.
- Bring the bands back to the front and tie a double knot underneath your bump or over it (whatever's most comfortable for you).

B - TRIPLE SUPPORT - POCKET WRAP CROSS CARRY (PWCC)

Preparation:

- Take hold of the wrap from the middle point.
- Gather the wrap with your hands close together, but not all the way down
- Place the wrap across your bump and wrap it around your waist.

The non-gathered part falls freely and forms a skirt.

- Cross the bands behind your back.
- Bring them up towards your shoulders as if they were butterfly wings, spread out so as to prevent any twisting of fabric.
- Let each side fall down over your shoulders, in front.
- Drape over each shoulder again.
- Pass them through the pocket that the wrap forms across your bump.
- Cross them over and bring them behind your back.
- Finish off by tying two knots at the height of your kidneys or bring it back round to the front and tie it if the wrap is too long.
- Lower the crossed part by putting your hands in a prayer position on the inside.

Positioning your baby:

- Hold your baby close to you on one side near your shoulder.
- Use one hand to take hold of the band on the other shoulder (opposite side to where the baby is positioned) and, moving it away from your body, put it around the baby's leg, making sure to position it well in the hollow of their knee.
- Repeat the step, placing the child on the other

shoulder and working with the other side.

- Place the baby in the middle of your body and position him or her down on the cross.
- Spread out the innermost band from one knee to the other and tuck it under the other (for safety).
- Spread the second band out from knee to knee too.
- Hold the front panel as if it was a rope.
- Pass it over the baby's feet (one at a time if necessary) and place it behind their knee sockets.
- Pull the upper edge up to the back of their neck, or halfway down their back.
- Tuck the bottom edge under their feet after checking that their legs are in the M-position (knees should be higher than the baby's bottom).
- If additional head support is needed, open and use the band corresponding to the nape of their neck.

Taking your baby out:

- Uncover their feet, lower the front panel, and return it to the initial position.
- Open the criss-crossed bands one at a time, starting with the outermost side to keep your child secure.
- You can take your baby out by lifting him or her under the armpits with your hands and pulling upwards.

C - FRONT DOUBLE HAMMOCK WITH STRETCHY WRAP - FDH

Preparation:

- Take the wrap, find its middle point, and position it behind your back, at the height of your kidneys.
- Gather the fabric with your hands close together, but not all the way to the end
- Bring the two bands forward.
- Cross the two bands over your chest, placing them over your shoulders and draping them.
- Reach back with one hand, pass under the first band as it comes down and take hold of the edge of the second band, near the neck, bring it out to the side where your hand is doing all the work and gather it all up in that hand.
- Repeat the steps with the other side.
- Bring the bands to the front again and tie together with two knots.
- Lower the cross by putting your hands in a prayer position on the inside of the two bands.
- Pull the outer edges down over the shoulders.
- Run your hand under one of the crossed bands at the front and locate the hem that goes down over the shoulder, turn it inwards over the chest (hem inversion).
- Repeat with the other band, ensuring that the bands do not twist.
- With your hands in a "praying" position, lower the cross again.

Positioning your baby :

- Hold the baby in your arms and place him or her on your shoulder opposite the innermost band.
- Place your hand inside the innermost band of



positioning the sling in the hollow of their knees.

- Move the infant over to your opposite shoulder and repeat with the outermost band (checking that their feet are out).
- Centre the baby, positioning him or her on the two bands in an M-shape.
- Starting with the innermost band, locate the inverted upper hem (from their shoulder to below their bottom) and lift it up until it is between their ears and the top of their head. Spread it out across their back and on the opposite side of the wearer, bringing the upper edge down to below the armpit.
- Repeat all steps with the outermost band.
- If it doesn't feel comfortable, you can untie the knot, maintaining the tension of the bands, and work the pull to fit snugly. You can help by moving your shoulder on the opposite side of the band you're working with.
- You can keep the upper edge up or fold it over like a collar to support the baby's nape and neck.

Taking your baby out:

- Open the criss-crossed bands one at a time, starting with the outermost side to keep your child secure.
- You can take your baby out by lifting him or her under their armpits with your hands and pulling upwards.

D - REINFORCED ROBIN'S HIP CARRY WITH A STRETCHY WRAP (RRHC)

Preparation:

- Find the middle point of the wrap.
- With your hands close to each other, fully gather the fabric.
- Place the centre of the wrap on the shoulder opposite the side on which you want to position your baby.
- Take the band from behind with the opposite hand and bring it towards the side where you want to carry the child.
- Bring it to the front and pass it over the other band, the vertical one, then block it under your armpit.
- Assess whether the stretch leaves enough space for

your baby or whether you need to loosen the slack.

- Fold the vertical band over your shoulder.
- Take hold of the back band and turn it to the side.
- Cross the two bands under the hammock on the side so that the front band passes under the other band in the cross.
- Tie a provisional knot on the opposite side.

Positioning your baby:

- Prendere il bambino e appoggiarlo sulla spalla cPlace the baby on your shoulder corresponding to the hammock.
- Slip both their legs into the hammock so that the cords (gathered bands) of the fabric are positioned between the hollow of their knees as the baby adopts a sitting position on the wearer's hip with their legs in an M-shape.

- Spread the wrap over your shoulder, stretching out first the lower part and then the upper part.
- With one hand underneath the baby's bottom for support, spread the wrap out from their bottom up over their back, starting at the upper edge and ending at the base of the baby's neck.
- Form a seat so that the excess fabric is tightly gathered and spread out across the hollows of the knees.
- Pull the excess fabric from the upper edge towards the fabric ring, then over the ring and work the whole band by gathering it to tighten it.
- Pass the front band over the first leg and underneath the hollow of the second knee. Stretch the fabric out across their back, trying to open it up from shoulder to shoulder and from knee hollow to knee hollow. Repeat the same step with the closed band from the back.
- If necessary, untie the temporary knot and pull both bands for a snugger fit to your body for the baby, helping by moving your shoulder.
- Tie a double knot on the opposite side or behind your back.

Taking your baby out:

- Remove the two outer bands from underneath the hollow of the baby's knees and then from underneath their legs.
- Slip out the seat and gather the wrap from the bottom upwards towards the baby's neck. Pass it over their head and your baby will be in your arms.

4. RULES FOR SAFE BABYWEARING

It is essential to follow the simple and basic rules listed below when carrying your baby in a wrap carrier to keep your child safe and secure.

WARNING: safety rules to follow when carrying a baby in a wrap

• Check regularly and carefully that the baby's nose and mouth are uncovered. The child's airways must always be free from obstruction.

• The baby must be in an upright position.

 Make sure that the baby's chin is not resting on his or her chest to prevent any breathing obstructions that could lead to suffocation.

• The baby must be well-supported and snug up against your body. You should be able to pass your hand between the carrier wrap and the child (but not a fist). If you are unable, then undo and tie again.

- The baby's body must be positioned at "holding height", i.e. at the same height as they would be if you were carrying them normally without a carrier.
- Make sure that the baby's head is always wellprotected and supported by the wrap until he/she develops independent control. Their head should be supported at all times when asleep.
- The tie method used must respect the baby's physiology.
- The infant's back should have a C-curve, respecting their natural physiology.
- The baby's bottom should be lower than his or her knees so that their legs are positioned in an "M" shape.
- The child's back must always be well-supported.
- Choose a carry position and tie method that is appropriate for the child's age and weight.
- Ensure that the baby is wearing clothing which respects the current season, weather, and outside

temperature.

- Follow standard rules of caution and common sense.
- For any questions or doubt, consult a trained babywearing educator.
- The wrap cannot be used on any means of transport, such as buses, cars, bicycles, etc.
- The sling wrap may not be used for sports activities such as skiing, running, cycling, etc.
- It is not recommended that the wrap be used when engaging in activities that may be dangerous for the child, such as cooking in front of a heat source, being near hot drinks, bathing in the sea, etc...

5. BABYWEARING RULES

The baby's body must be up close against the wearer's body (there should be less than one fist between them)

The baby must always be positioned above the wearer's centre of gravity





The baby's back must be C-shaped

You should be able to kiss the baby's head easily by tilting your head down





Ensure that the baby's chin is not resting on their chest



The baby's legs must be in an M-position



Check regularly that the baby's face is uncovered, and their

airways are unobstructed

6. BENEFITS OF BABYWEARING

Carrying your baby in a baby carrier is the most natural way to meet your baby's need for contact and care.

Up until 1880, when the first pram was invented, it was the only way to carry your baby. In the western world, the art of babywearing is gradually being lost. However, it is now being revived and becoming popular again due to its practicality and the positive aspects it offers to babies.

Babywearing offers many practical, physical, and emotional benefits to both the baby and the parents:

• Carrying your baby in a wrap allows you to take care of your baby while keeping your hands free to engage in activities that you could not do whilst holding your baby.

• A baby carrier supports the natural evolution of a newborn baby's back, respecting the natural kyphosis of the spine. During the first few weeks of life, a young infant spontaneously adopts this position, which is characterised by a round curved back and legs flexed towards their abdomen. Using a baby carrier maintains the physiological curve in an infant's back. This helps to activate muscles and gradually straighten the spine in a balanced manner. On the contrary, lying down flat on their backs for long periods of time, can be detrimental as it flattens the physiological C-shape of their spine. (American Academy of Pediatrics, Short, 1996).

• It encourages correct development of a baby's hip joints. The M-position which their legs adopt when using an ergonomic support, such as the Koala Cuddle Band 2, respects the natural physiology of newborns. This is why it has been awarded with IHDI Certification from the International Institute for the Prevention of Hip Dysplasia. It is a great help in preventing hip dysplasia and is indicated as an alternative therapy for children suffering from hip dysplasia.

• The use of a baby carrier **reduces the possibility** of Flat Head Syndrome (Positional Plagiocephaly) in infants and helps to treat the condition if already present. Carrying the baby in a baby carrier, wrap or sling decreases the amount of time the baby spends lying down, which can flatten the skull. We recommend alternating sides of the baby's head position every time you put the baby in a wrap, sling or baby carrier.

 Physical contact offers numerous benefits to a **baby's physical development**: it helps them to regulate their metabolism and body temperature, to develop a sense of balance, to perceive physical limits. It promotes cognitive skills as it encourages interaction with their environment. It allows you to satisfy one of your baby's primary needs: a secure attachment. Holding a newborn baby in your arms or in a baby carrier, cradling them, consoling them if they cry, does not spoil them or make them become overly attached to their parents. On the contrary, it satisfies their fundamental need for contact, which will help them to become an independent and self-confident child, ready to grow up secure in the knowledge that they will always have a safe haven whenever they need it.

• It improves a baby's well-being, as they feel safe and protected in a wrap snuggled up to mummy. After the birth, the newborn baby goes through a phase called exogestation (a gestation outside the mother's womb), in which they need contact with their mum just as they did when inside her tummy. That's why in a wrap they are more serene, cry less and sleep more peacefully.

 It strengthens the bond between parents and their **baby**, helping mum and dad to understand their baby's needs and favouring non-verbal communication. As a result, both parties benefit: the infant feels more understood and calm, and the parents feel more able to take care of their baby, improving their self-esteem.

 Using a baby carrier helps prevent postnatal depression. Being close to the baby stimulates production of oxytocin and other antidepressant hormones, which also favours breastfeeding.

7. FAQ

When can I start using the wrap?

You can use the Koala Cuddle Wrap stretchy from birth up until your baby weighs 10 kg.

How long can I use it to carry my baby per day?

There is no maximum time limit for carrying your baby in a wrap. Koala Cuddle Wrap Stretchy can be used for as long as the wearer and baby feel comfortable, as it allows the baby to be held in a natural position and allows for the mum to bear the baby's weight correctly across her back. The important thing is to ensure a baby's needs are met by alternating the time spent in a baby carrier with the time spent being held or lying on their back, paying particular attention, especially during those first few months of a baby's life, that your baby is feeding well and not missing out on a feed, be that by breast or bottle. It's my first baby wrap, will I find it easy to use? The Koala Cuddle Wrap stretchy is specifically designed for ease-of-use, even for those who have never used a baby wrap before. Read the instructions in this manual and watch the instructional video on our Youtube channel.

What clothing should I wear when using the wrap? How should I dress my baby?

The contact with the mum's body makes the baby feel safe and snug. This is why, we recommend you do not overdress your baby. The fabric used for the Koala Cuddle Wrap Stretchy is designed to be an excellent compromise between having the correct support for your baby and being lightweight at the same time. During high temperatures in the summertime, you may feel warmer, so we recommend that you dress your baby in lighter cool clothing. You can use a linen cloth or a square of gauze and place it between you and





remove the baby from the wrap and cool them down. **Am I spoiling my baby by carrying them in a wrap?** A newborn baby needs lots of physical contact, just as if they were still inside the womb. Contact with Mum and Dad does not spoil a baby; on the contrary, it is necessary to promote bonding and trust with parents, which will enable them to grow up independent and self-confident. If you keep your distance from your baby because you don't want to spoil them, they will react by demanding more contact and will grow up fearful and dependent.

Can dad use the baby carrier wrap?

Of course, it will help him bond with the baby.

My baby suffers from colic and cries a lot. Is a baby wrap good for him?

A study by Dr. Urs A. Hunziker has shown that babies who are carried in a wrap cry less and are much calmer. In general, when they are placed in a sling wrap, they stop crying after a few minutes.

Why do babies love slings so much?

Newborn babies need contact with their mum, just as much as they did when they were inside the womb (this phenomenon is called exogestation). Being in a sling is a familiar situation for them, they feel protected, snug and can smell their mum. That's why they feel calm and fall asleep peacefully.

Can my baby breathe when inside a sling?

A study by Dr. Stening, Dr. Nitsch, Dr. Wassmer and Dr. Roth at the Institute for Medical Statistics at the University of Cologne has shown that the use of baby carriers is not associated with an increased risk of clinically relevant cardiorespiratory disorders. Always make sure that the child's airways are clear and unobstructed.

Is carrying a baby in a sling bad for my back? Carrying a baby in a wrap (but also in your arms) inevitably causes strain to your spine. If you start

carrying your baby right away, your back will become used to it and train itself to carry the weight, and you will feel less fatigue when your baby gets bigger. It is important to carry the baby high up and close to your body, so that the weight is lighter.

Does carrying a baby in a sling harm a baby's back?

Every child is biologically predisposed to being carried. Humans have always carried babies on their bodies (like many mammals), and this predisposition is present inside our genes.

A baby is not harmed in any way by being carried in a wrap, on the contrary, it has a positive influence: the wrap respects the natural kyphosis of the baby's back and the M-position allows for correct development of an infant's hip joints (Koala Cuddle Wrap stretchy has been awarded with IHDI Certification from the International Institute for the Prevention of Hip Dysplasia).

My baby cries whenever I put him in the sling. What should I do?

Don't be discouraged, it is quite normal for you and your baby to struggle a little the first time you try. Firstly, consult this manual to make sure that you are wearing your Koala Cuddle Band 2 correctly. Our customer service team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Try introducing your baby gradually to their new baby carrier, initially using it for just a few minutes a day. Choose a moment when your baby is calm and content, such as immediately after a feed or in a tranquil environment.

For any questions, you can contact a babywearing advisor who'll be able to offer expert guidance on any difficulty you are facing.

How can I wash Koala Cuddle Wrap stretchy?

Koala Cuddle Wrap stretchy can be machine washed at 30° with similar coloured clothes. We recommend that you do not use bleach, do not iron, do not dry clean or tumble dry.

Will using a baby wrap delay my baby's first steps?

Babywearing has no impact on the time it takes your baby to begin walking. They will do so at their own pace.

On the contrary, it has been found that babies carried in a sling strengthen their muscles more quickly because the movement of the carrier is not perceived passively by the baby, using a carrier requires many small compensating movements from your infant which stimulate their sense of balance and their body and neck muscles.

8. CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Composition:

Wrap: 100% organic cotton Care & Washing:

Koala Cuddle Wrap *Stretchy* can be machine washed at 30°. We recommend washing with garments of a similar colour. We recommend that you do not use bleach, do not iron, do not dry clean or tumble dry.

9. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (CENTRO STUDI SCUOLA DEL PORTARE - BABYWEARING & NATURAL PARENTING®)

The Educational Training Centre "Scuola del Portare – Babywearing & Natural Parenting®" is distinguished by its many years of experience, which have made it one of the most established in the sector, as well as by the

Training courses

Through training and continuous development courses aimed at parents, those who want to work in the Babywearing educator field or open a babywearing related business, as well as maternity / infant healthcare professionals (midwives, nurses, paediatricians, etc.). The aim is to create a national network of qualified and competent Babywearing Consultants and expand the culture of this ancient, but equally current, practice.

Through the organisation of conferences, round tables, research, in order to scientifically increase cultural awareness of Babywearing and Attachment Parenting.

By collaborating with institutions such as local health authorities, hospitals, and health professionals such as

paediatricians and/or midwives and educators.

Collaboration with companies

Through collaboration with companies to improve and test the baby carriers at the various stages of production and introducing them to the market.

Fairs and events for parents

Through promoting the babywearing concept as a pedagogical tool and to foster well-being and psychophysical health of families: with courses, fairs, events dedicated to parents, aimed at supporting family empowerment and creating "close networks" among people who share the same attitude towards parenting.

Today, thanks to the commitment and passion of all the Babywearing (Portare®) Consultants in the area, the Educational Training Centre "Scuola del Portare

- Babywearing & Natural Parenting®", actively help parents on their babywearing discovery journey. They offer both theoretical and practical events, so parents can learn how to use the various types of baby carriers available today and understand which is most suited to their own baby's development phase and needs. They also support new parents in recognising and developing their own skills and abilities in caring for their newborn babies.

Happy babywearing everyone!



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