

Folding cloth diapers



Don't be intimidated by the thought of folding a diaper. Just imagine how many steps and illustrations it would take for putting on a pair of pants, but that doesn't mean it is hard to put on pants or something that you shouldn't do.

The most important thing to remember about diapering in cloth is that it takes a little practice to get a fold you can be proud of, but it doesn't have to be perfect. When wetness hits the cloth, it is absorbed and held until the diaper is removed, even if there are gaps around the legs or at the front. Other keys to folding cloth diapers:

1. The diaper should fit snugly around the top and around the legs. The Snappi fastener makes it pretty easy to get a good fit. The risk of the Snappi rubbing the skin is pretty small when the diaper is on correctly.
2. A mother may prefer one fold and the father may prefer another. Rest assured: the baby will not care, and neither will the pee or poop. There is no single "best fold."
3. Cloth diapers are naturally absorbent, but moisture will wick out if a diaper cover is not put on correctly. Think of a towel left on a bed. After putting the diaper on, make sure the cover is on securely and that all parts of the diaper are covered.
4. Proper care of the diaper and diaper cover are important. Cotton is naturally absorbent when prepped correctly, but fabric softeners, the wrong detergents, and certain diaper creams can adversely affect that absorbency. Similarly, certain detergents can break down the waterproof lining in diaper covers.
5. Cloth diapers are no more or less likely to leak than disposables. If you have any questions, ask us.
6. Does it take marginally longer to change a cloth diaper than a disposable? For most people, probably a few seconds. But remember that babies diapered in cloth potty train up to a year earlier than babies in disposables. Over time, you'll more than make up those few lost seconds. Besides, isn't your baby worth it?

Basic Angel Wing

Place the diaper under the baby, with a fold down in the back. The amount of cloth folded down will vary by taste and, of course, the size of the baby.



Fold the front corners over each other. Notice how this forms a small pocket under each thigh.



Bring the front up and over. The overlapping corners will probably need to be unfolded to ensure a proper fit, but notice that the pocket under the thighs remains.



Pull one of the back corners up and over the corresponding front edge. Gently hook the Snappi fastener to the outer layer of fabric.



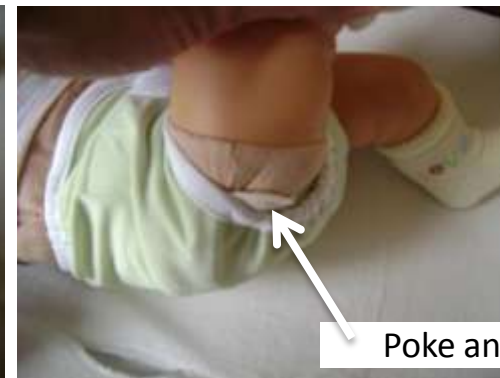
Stretch the elastic Snappi so that the teeth of the other side hook into the other back corner.



Stretch the third, center Snappi fastener down to finish securing the diaper in place.



Place the wrap under the diapered baby and attach velcro for a snug fit around the top and legs. After the diaper and wrap are secured, check that none of the diaper is poking out from the legs or top. If it is, poke it inside the wrap so that no part of the diaper is exposed.



Poke any exposed cotton into wrap

Doubling Up

Want a bit of extra protection at night? Double up. You can place two diapers of the same size on top of each other, but you may prefer to lay a diaper of a smaller size inside of the "main diaper" before beginning the fold.

Angel Wing, front fold

This fold is virtually identical to the Basic Angel Wing.

The fold you use is a matter of personal preference, and there could even be differences within the same family.

This fold begins like the Basic Angel Wing but with the fold over in the front. With the Basic Angel Wing, the fold in the back may provide a little extra protection in the back. The front fold may be a good option for boys, who may need a little extra protection in the front.

Fold the front corners over each other. Notice how this forms a small pocket under each thigh.

Pull one of the back corners up and over the corresponding front edge. Gently hook the Snappi fastener to the outer layer of fabric.



Stretch the elastic Snappi so that the teeth of the other side hook into the other back corner.

Stretch the third, center Snappi fastener down, to finish securing the diaper in place.

Place the wrap under the diapered baby and attach velcro for a snug fit around the top and legs. After the diaper and wrap are secured, check that none of the diaper is poking out from the legs or top. If it is, poke it inside the wrap so that no part of the diaper is exposed.

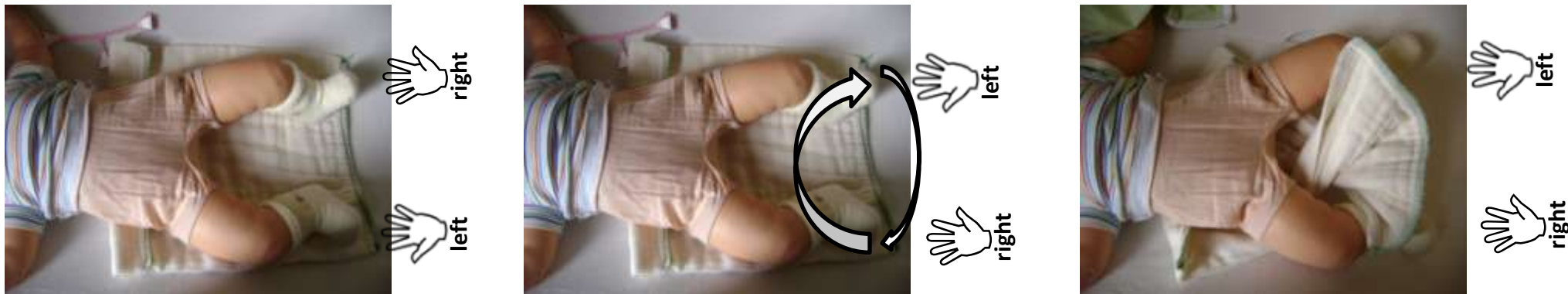


Bikini twist

This fold provides a fit that is a little less bulky between the legs, something that many parents prefer. But, it also provides a bit more protection down the middle, making it a good alternative for parents of little girls.

The fold you use is a matter of personal preference, and there could even be differences within the same family. This fold takes a little practice simply because it is hard to properly illustrate the twisting motion.

Begin with the diaper under the child. In this picture, a fold has been added at the top, but this is done to ensure a proper fit more than to add protection; had our model been longer, this may not have been necessary. Grab the near front corner with one hand and the far front corner with the other, and then flip your hands over each other as if you are turning a hand-crank.



This view does a better job of illustrating the actual twist that results from the “hand-crank” motion.

As with other folds, pull each of the back corners over the corresponding front corner. Attach one of the Snappi grips to one of those back corners and stretch the Snappi across the front so that it attaches snugly to the other. Finally, stretch the center grip down so that it gently bites into the fabric. Secure the wrap on the outside, and ensure that no part of the cotton diaper is exposed.

