# There's Still a Baby in My Bed: The Ultimate Guide to Co-Sleeping with Your Baby



There's still a baby in my bed!: Learning to live happily with the adult baby in your relationship by Rosalie Bent

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Co-sleeping with your baby can be a wonderful way to bond and strengthen your relationship. It can also make nighttime feedings and diaper changes easier, and it can help your baby feel secure and comforted.

However, co-sleeping can also be challenging, especially if you're not sure where to start. This article will provide you with everything you need to know about co-sleeping, from the benefits to the risks, and how to do it safely.

#### The Benefits of Co-Sleeping

There are many benefits to co-sleeping with your baby, including:

- Bonding: Co-sleeping can help you and your baby bond by increasing skin-to-skin contact and eye contact. This can help your baby feel secure and loved, and it can also help you develop a strong attachment to your child.
- Easier nighttime feedings: If you're breastfeeding, co-sleeping can make nighttime feedings much easier. You won't have to get out of bed, and you can simply unlatch your baby and feed them while they're still sleeping.
- Easier diaper changes: Co-sleeping can also make diaper changes easier. You won't have to take your baby out of bed, and you can simply change their diaper while they're still sleeping.
- Comfort and security: Co-sleeping can help your baby feel comforted and secure. They can hear your heartbeat and breathing, and they can feel your presence close by. This can help them to relax and fall asleep more easily.

#### The Risks of Co-Sleeping

There are also some risks associated with co-sleeping, including:

- Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS): The risk of SIDS is slightly higher for babies who co-sleep. However, the risk is still very low, and it can be reduced by following safe co-sleeping practices.
- Accidental suffocation: Babies can accidentally suffocate if they become trapped between the mattress and the wall, or if they are smothered by pillows or blankets. You can reduce the risk of accidental suffocation by making sure that your bed is safe for co-sleeping.

 Overheating: Babies can overheat if they are co-sleeping in a warm environment. You can reduce the risk of overheating by keeping the room cool and by dressing your baby in light clothing.

#### How to Co-Sleep Safely

If you're considering co-sleeping with your baby, it's important to take steps to do it safely. Here are some tips:

- Make sure your bed is safe: Your bed should be firm and have a fitted sheet that is snugly fitted to the mattress. There should be no pillows or blankets in the bed, and the bed should be free of any other objects that could pose a hazard to your baby.
- Dress your baby in light clothing: Babies can overheat if they are co-sleeping in a warm environment. Dress your baby in light clothing, such as a onesie or a sleeper, and make sure that the room is cool.
- Never co-sleep with your baby if you're under the influence of alcohol or drugs: Alcohol and drugs can impair your judgment and make you less able to care for your baby safely.
- Never co-sleep with your baby if you're a smoker: Smoking increases the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related deaths in babies.
- Be aware of your baby's sleep habits: Some babies are more restless sleepers than others. If your baby is a restless sleeper, you may want to consider using a co-sleeper or a bassinet instead of cosleeping in your bed.

### Co-Sleeping: Is It Right for You?

Co-sleeping can be a wonderful way to bond with your baby and make nighttime parenting easier. However, it's important to weigh the benefits and risks before making a decision about whether or not to co-sleep. If you're considering co-sleeping, talk to your doctor or a sleep expert to get more information and to make sure that it's the right decision for you and your family.



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