Cardigan-over-dress layers for a family photo

Layer-length and color worksheet • Free, no signup or purchase.

Plan a cardigan over a dress for a family photo by measuring where the dress's main line sits and where the cardigan hem lands, open and fastened. Agree a small group palette from clothes people already own, then take a trial photo in the light you will use. The free layer-length worksheet records the lengths, the palette and your photo notes.

You need

- The dress you plan to wear, and the shoes
- A plain cardigan you own or are considering
- A flexible measuring tape and a mirror
- A phone or camera for a trial photo
- The free layer-length and color worksheet (PDF) printed on US Letter paper, and a pen

1 Choose the dress first

Wear the dress without the cardigan and find its main line: the waist seam, an empire line, a drop waist or a belt. Measure from the top of the shoulder to that line and to the hem, and write both on the worksheet.

2 Test the layer length

Put the cardigan on open over the dress, then fastened. Measure the cardigan hem from the top of the shoulder each way and tick whether it falls above, on or below the main line. Check that you can move your arms freely.

3 Agree a small group palette

Choose up to three colors that people in the photo already own. Write who wears which, so nobody needs to buy matching outfits.

4 Take a trial photo

Stand in the place and light you will use and take a full-length photo from the camera's distance. Look for a hem that cuts across the dress's line or bunching at the back, and note what to change. A concept illustration cannot show a garment's exact color or drape.

Tips

- If the hem cuts across the dress's main line in the photo, try the cardigan open, or fastened only at the top button, before changing garments.
- Black knit can look like a flat dark shape in dim photos; take the trial photo in the light you will actually use.
- The optional cardigan link is an affiliate link. Check the selected garment size, material, measurements, care directions and return terms on the current listing. Other pictured pieces and accessories are separate.
- The printable is free to download and print. No account, email or purchase is required.

Notice

Original AI editorial illustration depicting a design concept; review manufacturer specifications and product details for final suitability. Accessories, exact colour, fit and performance are not established by the image.

Source

Optional product details: check the current listing and manufacturer directions.

Cardigan-over-dress layers for a family photo

Layer-length and color worksheet • Free, no signup or purchase.

1. Lengths (from the top of the shoulder)

Line	Inches / cm
Dress main line (waist seam, empire line or belt)	
Dress hem	
Cardigan hem, worn open	
Cardigan hem, fastened	

2. Where the cardigan hem falls

Position	Open	Fastened
Above the dress's main line	☐	☐
On the main line	☐	☐
Below the main line	☐	☐

3. Group palette

Color	Who wears it
Color 1	
Color 2	
Color 3	

4. Trial photo notes

Place and light: _____

Camera distance: _____

What to change: _____