



LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK

Prevention / Safety Tips

KidsAndCars.org believes the solution to these preventable tragedies is a combination of education and technology. KidsAndCars.org would like all vehicles to come equipped with a system that would detect the presence of a child in the vehicle. Below are some simple tips parents and caregivers can follow to prevent heat stroke tragedies. Create simple habits to help keep your child safe.

Make sure your child is never left alone in a car:

- ✓ Make it a habit of opening the back door **every** time you park to ensure no one is left behind.
- ✓ To enforce this habit, place an item that you can't start your day without in the back seat - employee badge, laptop, phone, handbag, etc.
- ✓ Ask your child care provider to call you right away if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.
- ✓ Clearly say out loud and confirm who is getting each child out of the vehicle. Miscommunication can lead to everyone thinking someone else removed the child.

Make sure children cannot get into a parked car:

- ✓ Keep vehicles locked at all times, *especially* in the garage or driveway. Ask neighbors and visitors to do the same.
- ✓ Never leave car keys within reach of children.
- ✓ Teach children to honk the horn if they become stuck inside a car.
- ✓ If a child is missing, immediately check the inside, floorboards and trunk of *all* vehicles in the area very carefully.

Additional safety tips:

- ✓ Never leave children alone in or around cars; not even for a minute.
- ✓ If a child goes missing, immediately check the inside passenger compartments and trunks of all vehicles in the area very carefully, even if they are locked. A child may lock the car doors after entering a vehicle on their own, but may not be able to unlock them.
- ✓ If you see a child alone in a vehicle, get involved. Call 911 immediately. If the child seems hot or sick, get them out of the vehicle as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Be especially careful during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays. This is when many tragedies occur.
- ✓ Use drive-thru services when available (restaurant, bank, pharmacy, dry cleaner) and pay for gas at the pump.
- ✓ Beware that vehicles have 'temperature zones' and the back seat may not be the same temperature as the front seat. Make sure rear vents are open and that the area your children are riding in is a safe temperature.

Please share these important safety tips with your childcare providers, teachers, relatives, friends, family and neighbors... It could save a life!

Think it can't happen to you... Think again!