
The Basics

- *Don't assume errands will be short. Always take your child with you.*
- *Cracked windows will not keep a child safe in a hot vehicle.*
- *It takes **less than 1 hour** for a car to heat up to dangerous levels.*
- *A car's internal temperature can be 30°-40° degrees warmer than outside air temps. Even a cool day is dangerous.*
- *Place important/needed items in the backseat with your child.*
- *Teach children not to play in or around vehicles.*
- *Remember an accident is something that is unavoidable. Losing a child because he/she was left in a car is a*

tragic mistake, but not it's not an accident because it is completely preventable!



It only takes a minute for tragedy to strike. Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle for any reason!

Information in this pamphlet was obtained through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Safe Kids Worldwide. For more about kids and car safety please visit the following websites

Websites

NHTSA—www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Safe Kids Worldwide—www.safekids.org



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www.co.warren.ny.us



Sun, Cars & Children A Deadly Combination.

It only takes a minute for tragedy to strike!



Tips for keeping children safe around cars.

How It Happens

Just a quick trip into the post office. Only a minute to pick up something at the store. Just returning a borrowed dish to a relative. Suddenly the lines are long, you run into an old friend, your relative needs to tell you about the latest family gossip. Now, instead of one minute it's been ten, fifteen minutes or more. Your child strapped in his seat is now trapped in his seat unable to escape the increasing temperatures in your vehicle as it sits in the sun. You remember just in time and rush out to your child and realize just how close you were to making a big mistake.

However, for far too many parents this story ends tragically.

- In 1996-2000 an average of 24 children died per year when they were left unattended in a vehicle or got trapped in a vehicle while playing. (SafeKids Worldwide)



How To Prevent a Tragedy

- **Never** assume that your errand will take just a minute. Always bring your child with you.
- **Cracking** a window is not an effective way to cool a vehicle. A cracked window doesn't make it safe for you to leave your child unattended.
- **Don't** assume that since it's not that hot out there is no danger to your child. A car parked in the sun can be 30°-40° degrees warmer than the outside temperature. So even on a 70° day the inside of your car can reach 100° degrees in less than 1 hour.
- **Always** lock your car even at home and make sure to keep keys out of the reach of children. This helps prevent accidental entrapment.
- **Make** sure children understand that cars are not playgrounds and they shouldn't play in or around cars.
- **Always** check the backseat and watch children closely when loading and unloading a vehicle.
- **Leave** a purse, briefcase or something else you need in the seat next to your child. This will make you have to look in the backseat.



More Ways To Keep Your Child Safe!

- Always use child safety seats correctly and never put young children in the front seat of a car.
- Check the temperature of the surface, straps and buckles of your child's safety seat to prevent burns.
- Shade the seat of your parked car using a light cover. Consider the use of windshield shades in front and back windows.
- Teach older children how to disable the driver's side door lock if they unintentionally become trapped in a vehicle.
- Avoid going into cruise mode. If you are not the one who usually drops the kids off to daycare make sure you don't forget about the sleeping baby who is not part of your daily routine. Focus your rearview mirror on your child and put work essentials in the backseat with your child.

Remember it only takes a minute for tragedy to strike. Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle for any reason!