

# Keep Children Out of Hot and Unlocked Vehicles



***A parked car or truck can be just as deadly as a speeding vehicle.***

Every year, dozens of children die from heat stroke after being left in hot and unattended or unlocked vehicles. Many of these children had not celebrated their 2nd birthday.

Additional children suffer permanent brain damage and other serious heat stroke-related injuries.

These deaths and injuries are 100 percent preventable. Most of these accidents occur because the parent or caregiver forgot the child was inside the vehicle. Busy schedules and other distractions may cause adults to not remember that a child is in the back seat.

Unlocked vehicles are another top reason children are harmed. Boys and girls get inside on their own to explore, play or hide.

***Follow these tips to keep children safe in your car:***

- \* Put your phone or bag on the back seat with the child.***
- \* Ask to be notified when your child is late to child care.***
- \* Request confirmation after someone else drops off your child.***
- \* Look in the back seat before locking a vehicle.***
- \* Teach children that an empty vehicle is a no-play zone.***
- \* Call 911 if you see a child in a vehicle alone on a hot day.***
- \* Keep your keys in a place that is out of reach.***

**A parked vehicle heats up fast. Keep your focus on young passengers and always lock your door. Doing so may save lives!**



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1-800-552-7096 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available)  
800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline