



# CHILDREN IN CARS

## Heatstroke Prevention Tips For Parents and Caregivers

Parents and caregivers are urged to take steps to remember not to leave children in vehicles. A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration review of child hyperthermia cases noted that a majority of the fatalities occurred due to a change in the driver's routine.

- Make a habit of looking in the vehicle – front to back – before walking away.
- If you are dropping your child off at childcare, and normally it's your spouse or partner who drops them off, have your spouse or partner call you to make sure the drop went according to plan.
- Ask your childcare provider to call you if your child does not show up for childcare.
- Do things to remind yourself that a child is in the vehicle, such as: writing yourself a note and putting the note where you will see it when you leave the vehicle; placing your purse, briefcase or something else you need in the back seat so that you will have to check the back seat when you leave the vehicle; or keeping an object in the car seat, such as a stuffed toy. When the child is buckled in, place the object where the driver will notice it when he or she is leaving the vehicle.
- Never leave infants or young children unattended in a vehicle—even if the windows are partly open or the engine is running and the air conditioning is on.
- Don't let children play in an unattended vehicle. Teach them a vehicle is not a play area.
- Always lock vehicle doors and trunks and keep keys out of children's reach. If a child is missing, check the vehicle first, including the trunk.

### Additional Resources:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/keepingkidsafe](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/keepingkidsafe)
- San Francisco University, Department of Geosciences - [www.ggweather.com/heat/index.htm](http://www.ggweather.com/heat/index.htm)
- Safe Kids - [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
- Kids and Cars - [www.kidsandcars.org](http://www.kidsandcars.org)
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia - [www.chop.edu](http://www.chop.edu)

# SAFETY TIPS