



KEEP KIDS SAFE...

Don't leave your child in the car!

5 TIPS FOR PARENTS:

1. If your child is in the back seat, place your diaper bag on the front seat next to you to serve as a visual reminder.
2. Place your cell phone in the back seat. This will serve two purposes: you won't be tempted to text while driving AND you will see your child when you get your phone.
3. Keep vehicles locked at all times, even in driveways or garages. Ask home visitors, child care providers and neighbors to do the same.
4. Keep car keys and remote openers out of reach of children.
5. LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!



Whether it's a hot sunny day or a cold, snowy night, it is NEVER a good idea to leave your children alone in a car. On average, **38 children die in hot cars each year from heat-related deaths** after being trapped inside motor vehicles.

“But I can crack the windows and lock the doors...”

It is still NOT SAFE to leave your child alone in a car. Cracking the windows is not an effective way to reduce the temperature in a car. Plus, car doors can easily be locked and unlocked by children -- even by babies under 1 year old. Time alone in a car can be dangerous because of other risk factors as well, such as pulling the emergency brake or being abducted.

“But I'm just making a quick stop...”

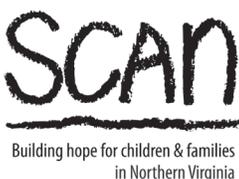
Even a quick errand (like the post office or drycleaner) is too long to leave a child alone in a car. Any length of time can be deadly. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke (or hyperthermia) can occur in just minutes for infants and young children. This is also true for hypothermia in cold weather.

“But the car doesn't seem too hot to me...”

Adults are less sensitive to heat than children. Even if the inside of a car doesn't feel warm, it could be fatally hot for children. A child's body temperature increases 3-5 times faster than that of an adult. If a child is ill or has other health problems, heat stroke can occur even faster.

Vehicle Temperature		
Outside	Inside	Time to Reach
75	100	10 minutes
75	120	30 minutes
85	90	5 minutes
85	100	7 - 10 minutes
85	120	30 minutes
100	140	15 minutes

**What should I do if my child has been left or is accidentally trapped inside a car?
 DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**



For more parenting resources, download our **SCAN Parent Resource Center App** or visit **www.scanva.org/prc**