

**never leave
a child alone in a car**

***not even
for a minute***



**Keep those closest to you
close at all times.**



**montana
CHILDREN'S TRUST
fund**

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never leave a child alone in a car *not even for a minute*

Left alone in a car, even for a short time, a child is in danger of heatstroke, dehydration, injury, abduction, or death.

- Vehicular heatstroke is one of the leading causes of non-crash-related deaths among children in the United States.
- On average, a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle every 10 days in the United States.
- When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's body temperature may increase three to five times as quickly as an adult's body.
- If you see a child unattended in a car, dial 911 immediately and follow the instructions that emergency personnel provide.

Routines and distractions can cause people to mistakenly leave children alone in cars. Use these tips to prevent this from happening.

- Make your child as visible as possible.
- Place your purse, briefcase, cell phone, or another item to be carried from the car in the back seat to serve as an additional reason to check that area.
- Set a reminder on your cell phone or computer to be sure you dropped your child off at day care.
- Ask your childcare provider to call you if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.
- Use drive-through, pick-up, or delivery options at grocery stores, restaurants, banks, and other businesses.
- Pay at the pump at gas stations.

Prevent trunk entrapment and other accidents.

- Teach your children the dangers of a car and let them know that it is not a toy or playground.
- Always lock your car, even at home, and remind your friends and neighbors to do the same. Unlocked cars pose a risk to children who are naturally curious.
- Always put your keys in a safe and secure place out of children's reach.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks immediately.



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