

# KEEP CHILDREN OUT OF HOT VEHICLES

**Every year  
dozens of children  
inside hot and  
unattended vehicles  
die from heatstroke.**

More than half of these tragic deaths are children under the age of 2. Some children suffer from serious heatstroke-related injuries such as permanent brain damage.

**These accidents  
do not have to  
happen. They  
are completely  
preventable.**



A forgetful caregiver is the top reason why children die in these vehicles. Feeling distracted, stressed or confused by a change in routine can make adults overlook a child in the back seat. *Stay focused by taking these actions:*

- ✓ **Ask the child care provider to call if your son or daughter is late.**
- ✓ **Confirm everything went well if someone else drops off your child.**
- ✓ **Place your child's stuffed animal in the passenger seat as a reminder you are not alone.**
- ✓ **Look in the back seat before locking the car or truck and walking away. Make it a habit.**

Unlocked vehicles are another major reason for these tragic losses. Children sometimes venture inside on their own to play or explore. *Keep them safe with these steps:*

- ✓ **Teach children an empty vehicle and trunk are unsafe places to play.**
- ✓ **Keep your keys and remote-entry fobs where children cannot reach them.**
- ✓ **Check the interior and trunk of your vehicle when a child is missing.**
- ✓ **Call 911 if you spot a child in a hot vehicle alone. Your call can save a life.**

**When it is hot outside, it's even hotter inside a car. Stay alert and keep car and truck doors locked to protect young lives.**



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1-800-552-7096 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available)

800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline