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Tips for parents

*** Put something you'll need like your cell phone, handbag, a KIDS AND CARS sunshade, lunch or brief case, etc., on the floor board in the back seat. Get in the habit of always opening the back door of your vehicle every time you reach your destination to make sure no child has been left behind. This way it will become a habit. We call this the "Look.....then lock campaign"

***Keep a large teddy bear in the child's car seat when it's not occupied. When the child is placed in the seat, put the teddy bear in the front passenger seat. "It's a visual reminder that anytime the teddy bear is up front you know the child is in the back seat in a child safety seat," said Janette Fennell, of KIDS AND CARS.

***Make arrangements with your child's day care center or babysitter that you will always call them if your child will not be there on a particular day as scheduled. This is common courtesy and sets a good example that everyone who is involved in the care of your child is informed of their whereabouts on a daily basis. Ask them to phone you if your child doesn't show up when expected. Many children's lives could have been saved with A telephone call from a concerned child care provider. Give child care providers all your telephone numbers, including that of an extra family member or friend, so they can always confirm the whereabouts of your child.

***If you see a child alone in a vehicle, get involved. If they are hot or seem sick, get them out as quickly as possible. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.

For additional information about keeping children safe visit the KIDS AND CARS website at: www.KidsAndCars.org