

SLNH Donation Aims to Reduce Heat-Related Death in Kids

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SLNH recently received a donation aimed toward helping decrease infant and child mortality due to excessive heat (hyperthermia).

[KidsandCars.org](#), a local nonprofit organization that provides education about children and vehicle safety, donated 100 stuffed animals to SLNH. The stuffed dogs, cats, and bears are meant to be placed on the front seat of the car as a visual reminder of when a baby is in the back seat.

According to their website, 33 children died inside hot vehicles in 2011. A child's body temperature rises 3-5 times faster than an adult's. Even with windows partially down, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 125 degrees within minutes.

As our lives become more and more hectic, and our time becomes divided by cell phones and other distractions, it's not hard to see how mistakes can be made. Factors such as lack of sleep, hormone changes, stress, and changes in normal routines can attribute to these potentially fatal errors.

The donated stuffed animals will be given to new parents while supplies last during breastfeeding support group meetings, at car seat safety checks sponsored by the hospital, and at SLNH newborn care classes. Each animal comes with a vehicle safety checklist to help remind parents of safety tips.

"We can all learn from our past mistakes," said [Terri Dickinson](#), parent educator at SLNH. "Car safety goes way beyond seat belt safety. Just because we're adults doesn't mean we can't learn something new about car safety to help better protect our kids."

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