

Wal-Mart Reminds Shoppers Not to Leave Kids in Cars

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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- Hundreds of people shop at Wal-Mart on a daily basis -- but have you ever noticed the signs on the automatic doors?

One of the signs says "look before you leave" to remind parents to not leave their children in cars alone.

After a child was left in a hot car last summer, Wal-Mart wanted to be proactive and do its part to remind shoppers not to leave children alone in cars.

A committee was formed, a design was made, and within months, thousands of signs were delivered to Wal-Mart stores across the country.

Every year, preventable deaths happen when children are left alone in hot cars. According to the nonprofit safety group Kids and Cars, more than 600 U.S. children have died that way since 1990.

"It's not okay at any point to leave your child," says Sherri Nichols, the mother of two grown kids.

Nichols says she's never left her children alone in cars, and she doesn't understand why anyone thinks it's okay.

"People are irresponsible," says Nichols. "They don't think about their kids. 'I'm in a hurry I have to get this done,' you know what, leave five minutes ahead of time.

"They just think it's going to be a few seconds," says Beverly Longe, a Wal-Mart shopper. "And they can just run in and out, and they can see the kids,".

Wal-Mart wanted to do its part to help prevent this problem. They put signs up in stores across the country that read, "Look before you leave" to remind parents to not leave children unattended in cars.

"If I did see something like that I would probably -- especially on a day like this -- I would notify somebody that there were kids out there," adds Longe, who looks after her two grandkids every once in a while.

"There's no way I would ever leave kids in the car for any length of time," says Longe. "It takes just a few seconds for it to get well over 100 degrees."

"Not just in heat," says Nichols. "But there are people that are not safe."

"It only takes a few seconds for somebody to jump in the car and take the kids," adds Longe.

Nichols thinks Wal-Mart's sign is a reminder that everyone has a responsibility to step up to keep kids safe.

"Put up a big sign, right there by the pole...instead of on the door put it on the pole where you park," says Nichols. "Do not leave your kid in the car; it's not ok, at all. Period."

Shoppers can see the stickers on Wal-Mart's doors across America, which have been a part of the décor for about 6 months now.

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