

Children Safety and Cars

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[Video](#)

According to the Centers for Disease, Control and Prevention, approximately one in 10 vehicle-related deaths of children don't occur in traffic situations. Instead, many of these deaths occur close to home, in drive-ways or garages, in nearby parking lots, or even inside the car.

With the approach of warmer weather, children will be out of the house and playing on or near sidewalks, driveways and even inside garages. One of life's most tragic accidents occur when a small child is standing or playing in back or in front of a parked vehicle and is unseen by the driver, and then struck while backing up or driving away. Tragically, this driver is often a parent, close relative or friend.

Every driver should realize that toddlers and small children always fit below the profile of the vehicle and, therefore, are hidden from the driver's line of vision. The most important thing to do is that all drivers should make it a habit of taking a 'five-second walk' around their car before stepping into the car to drive it. If you discover a child by the car, warn him or her to stand far away from the car so that you can see them as you drive away.

Also, it's always smart to teach your children to never play around cars or to play in neighbor's driveways, and to watch for cars whenever using a sidewalk intersecting a driveway.

Facts About Backover and Frontover Accidents

- Between 2001 to 2003, approximately 2,500 American children per year were rushed to emergency rooms after being struck by a vehicle in a driveway or parking area. 50% of the children injured in these accidents were toddlers and small children (ages 1 to 4).
- An average of 230 children die each year from backovers or frontovers- that's nearly one a day during the warm weather months.

Never Leave Your Child Unattended in a Car

Leaving a child unintended in a car - for even a 'quick' errand - can be a fatal mistake. Even with mild temperatures, a child left alone in a vehicle can become overheated in just a matter of minutes, with tragic consequences.

Heat inside an enclosed car is much more dangerous to a child than to an adult. When inside a hot car, a child's core body temperature can rise five times faster than an adult's. When the body temperature of a child reaches 104 degrees, the internal organs will begin to shut down. When the body reaches 107 degrees, the child dies.

Statistics show that more than 50% of the children who died from heat stroke were either accidentally left in a closed, parked car by their parents, babysitter or other caregiver. Another 30% are children who became trapped inside a car while playing unattended in a vehicle.

Tragically, 20% of all children who died were purposely left in the vehicle by an adult.

Facts About Unattended Children and Heat Stroke

- In the past decade, more than 600 children have died from heat stroke while unattended in a car.
- On an 80-degree day, the inside of a car can reach 100 degrees in just 10 minutes.

Watch out for 'Trunk Entrapment'

For many children - small and large alike - a car trunk is attractive as a fun place to play or hide. Unlocked cars and open trunks are tempting to children as fun areas to play and explore. Parents should always teach their children that

vehicles are not toys and they should never play in them.

Tragically, many families have discovered that kids can easily get inside the trunk, but once the trunk closes they can't always get out.

Parents should make it a habit to always keep unattended cars locked at all times (and keep keys and fobs kept out of reach of children).

Facts about Trunk Entrapment

- Cars manufactured after 2001 have an emergency trunk release, a glow-in-the-dark handle that will open the trunk from the inside in an emergency. As you teach your children about trunk safety, it is always a good idea to show them this release, just in case.

- Children can access car trunks in several ways, even without having the vehicle's keys. For example, some rear seats have trunk compartments. Also, some cars have driver controls or outside buttons that open the trunks.

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