

'Look Before You Lock' campaign raises awareness for child heat deaths

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PHOENIX - A valley mom who suffered the unthinkable is speaking out about her tragedy to make sure it doesn't keep happening. Dawn Peabody lost her daughter to severe heat stroke after the toddler was left inside a car.

'Look Before You Lock.' Dawn Peabody is going to be passing out teddy bears to remind parents how dangerous a hot car can be.

It takes about 10 minutes for the inside of a car to reach 125 degrees -- and according to [kidsandcars.org](#), 26 children have already died in hot

vehicles in the U.S. this year

Her family called her Maya Moo. Just 2 years old, she was filled with laughter and mischief and loved playing jokes. On October 18 of 2008, the Arizona heat claimed Maya's life.

"I normally would have taken my daughter with me. And my husband came home and normally he would hop out of the car, run inside, play with the kids and when he got home that's exactly what he did."

Dawn Peabody says on that Saturday morning after a breakfast outing with the family her husband took Maya in his car. It was about an hour later that he discovered she was left there. She died of heat stroke.

"This type of accident happened to our family because of a change of routine. I've heard of it happening to parents, that construction happened and they took a different route to work."

Peabody has become active with several organizations like Ray Ray's Pledge. She's a volunteer for [kidsandcars.org](#). She will be handing out Chance the dog and Lucky the cat -- furry reminders -- for new and expectant parents.

"We're just trying to give parents a reminder to always make sure that you look in the back seat before you lock the car, and in order to help them remember do that, we're encouraging you to take Lucky or Chance and putting them in a babies car seat when baby is not in the car, and in the front seat when the baby is in the car."

Really, parents can use any stuffed animal as a reminder. This is how it works -- keep the stuffed animal in the car seat. When your baby is in the car seat the stuffed animal is moved up front, a visual reminder that the baby is with you.

<http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/story/23140741/2013/08/14/look-before-you-lock-campaign-raises-awareness-for-child-heat-deaths>