

Safety cards urge parents to "Look Before You Lock"

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A child safety organization is distributing safety cards to hospitals nationwide. They'll be given to new parents and offer suggestions to prevent children from being left alone in cars inadvertently. ([more](#))

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BLACKSBURG, VA-- -- New mother [Rachel Waff](#) wouldn't dream of leaving her 4-month-old alone in a car. "I wouldn't dream of it happening but I know that it has happened to people," she said.

22 children have died after being left in hot cars so far this year, according to child [safety group Kidsandcars.org](#). "It's happened to people that wouldn't have imagined that they'd do it and very well educated people," [Waff](#) said.

[A veterinarian](#) in Northern Virginia found her 2-year-old dead, still strapped in his [car seat](#) just last month. Police say he'd been left in the family mini van for hours. Just as temperatures reach record breaking levels in [Virginia](#) and across the country, [KidsandCars.org](#) is pushing a new campaign to remind parents and caregivers to "Look Before you Lock."

"They're simple things you can do to form a routine that keeps your child safe," said [Jean Duetsch](#). [Duetsch](#) is a [maternity nurse](#) at Lewis [Gale Montgomery](#) where new parents are helped with getting their newborns into [car seats](#) properly before they ever leave the hospital.

They're given information packets as well. "All information about newborn care, breastfeeding and also we focus on a lot of things like [immunization](#), [sudden infant death syndrome](#)," said [Duetsch](#).

They'll soon hand out these safety cards as well. The cards explain how memory lapses can result in children being placed in danger when inadvertently left alone in cars, according to [KidsandCars.org](#). The non-profit is now offering hospitals nationwide the safety cards. They offer parents tips on things they can do to keep their child from being [hurt](#) or even worse.

"I think if you're naive and think it's not going to happen you might have that issue," said [Waff](#). "It's better to think of it as a possibility and try to educate yourself and do whatever you can to prevent it from happening."

A simple card and a reminder to even the most loving of parents, the unimaginable can happen to them.

<http://www2.wsls.com/news/2011/jul/22/safety-cards-urge-parents-look-you-lock-ar-1189784/>