

# car safety with children

Never leave your child alone in a car. When the sun starts getting hotter and stronger, the number of incidents in which children are left unattended in a vehicle begins to climb with the peak hitting in the summer months. Since 1988, more than 520 children have died as a result of hyperthermia, also known as heat stroke, with an average of 38 per year. When arriving at a destination drivers can become distracted and forget that they have a child in the back seat and will go on about their routine. Some children can be playing in an unattended car and are unable to get out, or can be intentionally left by an adult “for just a few minutes.” These deaths are preventable.

Even in cool temperatures, cars can heat up to dangerous temperatures very quickly. Even with the windows cracked open, interior temperatures can rise almost 20 degrees fahrenheit in the first ten minutes. Anyone left inside the car is at risk for serious heat-related illnesses or even death, but children are at the greatest risk.

## **Please remember the following when traveling with your child:**

- Never leave infants, children or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.
- There are many reminders that you can use so you don't mistakenly leave your child in the car when you become distracted. One option is setting a reminder on your cell phone. Another option is to download the “Baby Reminder” iPhone App. This easy-to-use app has an alert reminding you not to forget your baby in the car. The reminder will be sent shortly after you arrive at your destination. Please note that this app is not meant to reduce or replace your responsibility for your children.
- Don't have an iPhone? A good visual reminder is to keep a child's stuffed animal buckled in the car seat. When your child is buckled in the seat, place the stuffed animal in the front seat with you as a visual reminder that your child is in the seat, not the stuffed animal.
- When leaving your car, check to make sure everyone is out of the car. Do not overlook any children who have fallen asleep in the car.
- As a bystander, take action and call 911 if you see an unattended child in a vehicle.
- Tell others what you have learned.

Source: CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**Baby  
on board**