

Cars & Kids: How to Avoid Dangerous Situations

Children Left in Hot Vehicles

- Never leave infants or children in a parked vehicle, even if the windows are partially open.
- Make a habit of looking in the vehicle – front and back – before locking the door and walking away.
- Carefully check all seats in the van or bus to make sure there are no children sleeping on the seats or hiding under seats.
- Do not let children play in an unattended vehicle. Teach them that a vehicle is not a play area.
- Check with the family when a child does not show up for day care to be sure a parent has not forgotten a child in their vehicle.
- Always lock vehicle doors and trunks, and keep keys out of children's reach.
- If a child is missing, check the vehicle first, including the trunk or storage area.
- If a child is in distress due to heat, get them out as quickly as possible. Cool the child rapidly.
- Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.

Children around Parked Vehicles

- Walk all the way around your parked vehicle to check for children, pets, or toys before getting in the car and starting the engine.
- Use a Spot the Tot* window sticker as a reminder to walk around the vehicle before every trip.
- Make sure young children are always accompanied by an adult when getting in and out of a car.
- Identify and use safe play areas for children away from parked or moving vehicles.
- Designate a safe spot for children to go when nearby vehicles are about to move.
- Firmly hold the hand of each child when walking near moving vehicles and when in driveways, in parking lots, or on sidewalks.
- Teach children not to play in and around vehicles.

* *Spot the Tot* is service mark from Primary Children's Medical Center, Utah.

Children Left in Running Vehicles

- Lock vehicles at all times, even in the garage or driveway.
- Never leave keys in the car.
- Store keys out of children's reach.
- Engage your emergency brake every time you park.
- Check to see if your vehicle has a Brake Transmission Safety Interlock (BTSI), which is a safety technology to prevent children from accidentally putting a vehicle into gear. Check your owner's manual to see if your vehicle is equipped with BTSI. After September 1, 2010, all vehicles with an automatic transmission with a PARK position must have BTSI.
- Use drive-thru services when available. Use your debit or credit card to pay for gas at the pump.
- Lock the power windows so that children cannot get caught in them. Power windows can strangle a child or cut off a finger.