

**never leave**  
**a child alone in a car**  
***not even***  
***for a minute***



**Keep those closest to you  
close at all times.**



**montana**  
**CHILDREN'S TRUST**  
**fund**

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# **never leave a child alone in a car** *not even for a minute*

**Left alone in a vehicle, even for a short time, a child is in danger of heat stroke, dehydration, injury, abduction, or death.**

- Heatstroke is the number one killer of children, outside of car crashes.
- On average, every 10 days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle.
- When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's body temperature may increase three to five times as quickly as an adult.
- If you see an unattended child in a car, dial 911 immediately and follow the instructions that emergency personnel provide. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble.

**Believe it or not, routines and distractions have caused people to mistakenly leave children behind in cars.**

- Make your child as visible as possible.
- Place your purse, briefcase, or whatever is to be carried from the car in the back seat to serve as an additional reason to check that area.
- Set a reminder on your cell phone or computer to be sure you dropped your child off at day care.
- Ask your childcare provider to call you if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.
- Remember to use drive-through convenience provided by banks, restaurants, and other businesses.
- Pay at the pump at gas stations.

**Prevent trunk entrapment and other accidents.**

- Teach your children the dangers of a car and let them know that it is not a toy or playground.
- Always lock your car, even at home, and remind your friends and neighbors to do the same. Unlocked cars pose a risk to children who are naturally curious.
- Always put your keys in a safe and secure place out of children's reach.
- When a child is missing, check pools, vehicles, and car trunks immediately.



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