



While cars are made to keep people safe, kids should always be with an adult when in or around one.

- Even with a window slightly open, on a typically sunny summer day, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach potentially deadly levels within minutes. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's core body temperature may increase three to five times as fast as an adult. This could cause permanent injury or even death.
- Teach children that cars are not a play area. Children can accidentally put the car into gear release the emergency brake, causing the car to roll, or they can leave the car without the driver's knowledge.
- Restrain all children in the appropriate child restraint to prevent them from accidentally activating power windows that can cause injury. Children have been trapped and strangled by power windows.
- Young children should not have the opportunity to get in or out of a car without the assistance of an adult, especially in a parking lot or street. Children are unaware of hazards around them.

## **Tips**

- Never leave a child alone in a vehicle.
- Always lock car doors and trunks and keep keys out of children's reach.
- Watch children closely around cars, particularly when loading or unloading.
- Make sure all children leave the vehicle with you when you reach your destination. Don't forget sleeping infants.
- Make sure that all children are restrained in the proper child restraint to prevent access to power windows. Remind older children who are over 80-100 pounds and 4 feet 9 inches to stay properly seated in the safety belt. Children under that height and weight should be in a car seat with a harness or a booster seat. Children of any age should not have unsupervised access to power windows.

## **Facts**

- An average 33 children died per year from 1998-2004 from heatstroke after being left unattended in a vehicle.
- On days when ambient temperatures exceeded 86°F, the internal temperatures of the vehicle quickly reached 134°F to 154°F

For more information visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org).



**Sierra-Sacramento Regional Child Abuse Prevention Councils' Coalition**

*A working coalition of child abuse prevention councils from 15 counties.*

**[www.sierrasaccoalition.org](http://www.sierrasaccoalition.org)**