

Cars + SC Heat = Danger

As of September 1, 2021 there were 19 child hot car deaths in the United States in 2021. Children are particularly vulnerable because their bodies heat up five times faster than an adult's. These tragic deaths are highly preventable with some basic precautions.



Make the call

Parents: Ask your child care center to call you if your child does not arrive at the center on time.

Teachers: Make sure you have up to date contact info on the people who drop children off at your center each day and have a calling procedure in place when a child does not arrive on time.



Keep cars locked when unattended

Children have died after becoming entrapped in unattended vehicles, especially ones with child safety locks. The child can enter the car from the outside, but is then unable to open the door to get back out again. Keeping vehicle doors locked when not in use can help prevent this situation.



Have a reminder

Place your phone, wallet, purse, or other needed items near your child's car seat.



Have a fuzzy car friend

Keep a stuffed toy in the car seat. Once your child is buckled in, place the toy where you will notice it when you leave the vehicle.



What to do if you see a child unattended in a vehicle

Call 9-1-1! If they are in distress, get them out of the car ASAP, even if you have to break a window. Cool the child rapidly by spraying them with cold water—a garden hose will do. Do NOT put them in ice—their little systems can't handle the extreme change



Richland County First Steps to School Readiness - 1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 406 Columbia, SC 29204

phone 803.256.7237 web www.richlandfirststeps.org social @rcfirststeps