



Not Even for a Second!

You should never leave a child alone in an automobile. Here's why...

- On a warm 80 degree day, the temperature in a closed vehicle can reach dangerous levels in minutes, even with the windows cracked. A young child's body temperature rises much faster than an adult's. A high body temperature can lead to permanent injury or even death.
- If the keys are left in the vehicle, or the vehicle is left unlocked, someone could steal the vehicle with your child in it.
- If your child is left alone in the vehicle, someone could kidnap your child.
- Your child could put the vehicle in gear and it could move. The vehicle could hit or run over something or somebody.
- Your child could start a fire in the vehicle.
- Your child could get tangled in something and strangle, or choke if eating or drinking.

Most adults would never leave their wallets or purses alone in the car. Why would you leave something even more valuable? What you think may only be a quick trip...only a second...could easily turn into much longer.

Remember:

- Keep your keys out of reach of children. Keep your vehicle doors and trunk locked when your car is parked, even in your own driveway or garage. Children have suffocated playing in the closed trunk of a vehicle.
- Make sure all children are out of the vehicle before you leave it, especially if transporting children is not your normal routine.
- If you see a child alone in a vehicle, call the local police immediately. You do not know how long the driver has been gone.
- No matter how much "trouble" it may be to take your child with you, if you left your child alone and something terrible happened, you would never forgive yourself.

Finally:

- Please have the same consideration for your pets!

For more information contact Guilford County Department of Public Health at 336-641-7777 or www.myguilford.com