



Arkansas Department Human Services



Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education LICENSING & ACCREDITATION

P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-150 Little Rock, AR 72203-1437 • 501-682-8590 • Fax: 501-682-2317 • TDD: 501-682-1550

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Dear Provider:

According to the Organization Kids and Cars, "On average, 38 children die in hot cars each year from heat-related deaths after being trapped inside motor vehicles." No children should be left in cars, not even for a very short period of time. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that, "Vehicles heat up quickly - even with a window rolled down two inches, if the outside temperature is in the low 80s° Fahrenheit, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach deadly levels in only 10 minutes." With the temperature reaching well above that in Arkansas it is critical we do not leave children alone in motor vehicles. So, what can you do to prevent vehicular related child heat stroke? The Kids and Cars Organization has a few safety tips to ensure every child is safe in vehicles. Their Look Before You Lock initiative has facts and tips that can help you make sure children are not left in cars. Please click the following links to the *Look Before You Lock* posters.

Look Before You Lock (Front): <http://www.kidsandcars.org/userfiles/dangers/heat-stroke/look-before-you-lock-front.pdf>

Look Before You Lock (Back): <http://www.kidsandcars.org/userfiles/dangers/heat-stroke/look-before-you-lock-back.pdf>

In addition to the Look Before You Lock initiative, you can take the Look Before You Lock pledge provided by the Administration for Children and Families. This is a great way of pledging a commitment to preventing child heatstroke in cars. We ask that you take the time to remind your staff of the dangers, and post one or more of these flyers to help educate parents and other caregivers of the children in your care. Together we can help educate the community to help prevent these tragic deaths.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services also has a strong commitment to making sure children are safe while being transported. Minimum Licensing Requirements are established to assist all child care providers in making sure children are protected while riding in facility owned motor vehicles, such as vans, busses, cars, etc. Please see the 1300 Section in your licensing manual to reference the transportation requirements. You may also access your licensing manual by clicking on the following link: http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dccece/Pages/ChildCareLicensing.aspx#Child_Care_Licensing.

For more information regarding child safety in vehicles, please visit the Kids and Cars website at <http://www.kidsandcars.org/> and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/safety/hyperthermia>. If you have any questions regarding how you can make it safer for children to be transported, please feel free to contact your licensing specialist or the Arkansas Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education at 1-800-445-3316.

Sincerely,

Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Licensing and Accreditation Unit

<http://www.state.ar.us/childcare/>
Serving more than one million Arkansans each year



He's a killer.

PLEDGE

LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK

Pledge to Prevent Child Heatstroke in Cars

Heatstroke in vehicles is **the leading cause** of all non-crash-related fatalities involving children 14 and younger. These deaths are completely preventable, and everyone in the community – especially parents and Head Start and child care providers – have roles to play in protecting our children.

With 550 heatstroke deaths of children in hot cars since 1998, I am committed to doing everything I can to protect the child in my care.

That's why, as a parent, I pledge to:

- Call my Head Start or child care provider if my child will be absent or arriving later than usual.
- Use these tips to remind myself there is a child in the vehicle:
 - ♦ Write myself a note and place it where I'll see it when I leave the vehicle.
 - ♦ Place my purse, briefcase, or something else I'm sure to need in the back seat so I'll see the child in the vehicle.
 - ♦ Keep an object in the car seat, such as a stuffed toy. Once the child is buckled in, I will place the object where I'll see it before leaving the vehicle.
- Notify the authorities immediately if I see a child left unattended in a vehicle.

That's why, as a Head Start or child care provider, I pledge to:

- Call the parent of the child in my care if the child doesn't arrive on time.
- Check every seat in a vehicle used to transport children to make sure there are no children remaining in the vehicle before I park and lock up.
- Notify the authorities immediately if I see a child left unattended in a vehicle.



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

