



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Prevent Heatstroke: Never Leave a Child Alone in a Car

With temperatures predicted to rise above 90 degrees this weekend, Wake County reminds parents and caregivers of the dangers of leaving children inside a car.

On average, one child dies from heatstroke every 10 days in the United States. In 2016 alone, 39 children nationwide died from heatstroke or suspected heatstroke while left in cars.

“Young children are especially at risk of heatstroke because their bodies heat up three times faster than an adult’s,” said Suzanne LeDoyen, a public health educator for Wake County. “Help prevent these tragedies by never leaving a child alone in a vehicle, not even for a minute.”

The acronym “ACT” is a part of the [Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car](#) campaign, which was launched by Safe Kids Worldwide and the General Motors Foundation. The campaign reminds residents to:

- **A:** Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. Always lock

your doors and trunks – even in your driveway. Keep your keys and key fobs out of the reach of kids.

- **C:** Create reminders. Place something you'll need at your next stop - like a briefcase or cell phone - next to the child safety seat. This is especially important if you're not following your normal routine.
- **T:** Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911.

Parents and caregivers should also keep vehicles locked when they're not in use and teach children not to play in cars.

For more information on preventing heatstroke, visit [safekids.org](https://www.safekids.org).

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