A power window. A trunk latch. A car door lock. Simple things that when overlooked can have tragic consequences. But there’s no reason for tragedy to happen to your child. All you need to prevent the unthinkable is to initiate consistent, preventative behaviors.

Watch your windows. It can happen in an instant. A child leans out a car window and unknowingly activates the power window switch. Unable to reverse it, the child is injured or can even be strangled to death.

- Properly restrain all children in your vehicle.
- Lock power windows from the driver’s seat.
- Choose the correct child safety seat for your child’s age, weight and height.

Did you forget something?

Nearly 70% of children left in vehicles are left by a caretaker. Maybe it’s an overworked parent who forgets to drop off their child at daycare, or a relative who thinks the child will be okay “for just a few minutes.” Another 18% of the kids crawl into the vehicle themselves.

- Put something you need on that trip in the backseat (a purse or briefcase) or place a stuffed animal in the front seat to remind you the child is there.
- Use drive-through when possible.
- Arrange for daycare to call when a child hasn’t been dropped off or have your partner cross-check with you.
Trunks are for luggage. It seems like the perfect hiding place to small children, but car trunks are anything but fun when kids get trapped inside. Children can easily be overcome by heat exhaustion, losing consciousness and dying before they can call for help.

Even in 70° weather the vehicle can reach life-threatening temperature in just minutes. And leaving a window open does not help.

It’s called hyperthermia or heat-stroke, and it can happen faster than you ever imagined. Children or animals left inside a vehicle quickly overheat, resulting in devastating injury, permanent brain damage or death.

- Teach children that trunks are not safe places to play.
- Make sure children don’t have access to keys.
- Keep rear fold-down seats closed to prevent kids from crawling into the trunk from inside the car.
- Show children how to find and use glow-in-the-dark emergency release mechanisms. Cars made before 2001 can be retrofitted.

KEEP CAR DOORS LOCKED AT ALL TIMES. NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN OR PETS UNATTENDED IN OR AROUND A VEHICLE.