



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child Development
and Early Education

Be on the Safe Side – June 24, 2022

Transportation Safety

It's SUMMER! Summer means long, hot days, vacations to the beach and the mountains, and the opportunity to get outside and have fun. This year, children (and adults) across the state are more eager than ever to get out and seek some adventure. Before hitting the open road with the children in your care this year, it's important to review the child care rules that apply to transportation safety.

In North Carolina, child care transportation requirements are established in both the North Carolina General Statutes (N.C.G.S.) and the Division of Child Development and Early Education's (DCDEE) Child Care Rules. N.C.G.S. § 110-91(13) and Child Care Rules .1003(g) and .1723(12) explicitly states: "**Children shall not be left in a vehicle unattended by an adult.**" To review all transportation rules for child care centers and family child care homes, refer to Child Care Rule 10A NCAC 09 .1001 - .1004 and Child Care Rule 10A NCAC 09 .1723.

Transporting children is a high-risk activity, particularly for child care facilities. According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly 900 children have died of heatstroke since 1998 because they were left or became trapped in a hot car.



As explained by the NHTSA, heatstroke begins when the body's core temperature rises to approximately 104 degrees; a core body temperature of about 107 degrees is lethal. A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's, and when a child is left in a hot car, their temperature can rise to deadly levels in minutes. Did you know that in just 10 minutes a car can heat up by 20 degrees and become deadly? Such heatstroke incidents are 100% preventable when child care transportation rules are followed!

In addition to what is found in the child care rules, these important safety measures are recommended:

- Do a physical check of the entire vehicle after all of the children have exited to be absolutely certain that no child has fallen asleep or has been left behind.
- Take attendance at regular intervals, including at each transition point, checking children by both name and face.

- Have additional staff members while transporting children to assist with supervision and safe arrival/departure.
- If a child does not arrive by their scheduled time, contact the parents as a courtesy to check on the child.

There are excellent child transportation safety resources available online:

- Visit [Buckle Up NC](#) to find the vehicle restraint appropriate for each child's age or weight.
- [Safe Kids Worldwide](#) is an organization dedicated to “preventing injuries in children, the number one killer of kids in the United States.”
- [Kids and Cars](#) is committed to “preventing injuries and death to children in or around motor vehicles.”

Requirements for safe transportation are not exclusive to child care facilities. They're valuable to anyone transporting a child. All child care facilities must practice safe transportation and are encouraged to partner with parents to do the same. Please, when you are transporting children, take an extra moment to double check the vehicle to ensure all children have exited.

A few extra moments could save a child's life!