



Exemptions Newsletter - Summer 2019



For the sixth consecutive year, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) and several other state agencies are calling for families and caregivers of children to have a heightened awareness of the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles. In his first year in office, Governor Brian P. Kemp is lending his voice to this important challenge by issuing a proclamation naming Friday, May 24, 2019, as Look Again Day in Georgia.

Amy M. Jacobs, DECAL Commissioner, said over 337,000 children in Georgia are cared for daily by approximately 5,000 child care providers, most of whom regularly transport children. “When we receive reports of children left in vehicles by providers, we investigate each incident,” Jacobs explained. “During FY2018, 12 children were left in vehicles by child care providers statewide. So far in FY2019, 10 children have been left. Thankfully all of these children survived, but one child left unattended in a vehicle is one child too many and, despite our best efforts, these numbers show there is still work to be done.”

National Heat Stroke Prevention Day

July 31st is National Heatstroke Prevention Day. As summer heats up, heatstroke continues to be the number one vehicle-related killer of children, outside of car crashes, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Children are more vulnerable to heatstroke than adults, especially in the summer months and when it starts to get hot outside. Since 1998, more than 790 children across the United States have died from heatstroke when left unattended in a vehicle. Those deaths have occurred in the following ways:

- The child was forgotten by a caregiver—*54 percent*.
- The child gained access to an unattended vehicle—*26 percent*.
- The child was intentionally left in the vehicle by an adult—*18 percent*.
- The cause of the child’s death is unknown—*1 percent*.

In 2018, 52 children died from heatstroke, the highest number of deaths on record. Since 2015 there has been a gradual increase in annual deaths from vehicle-related heatstroke:

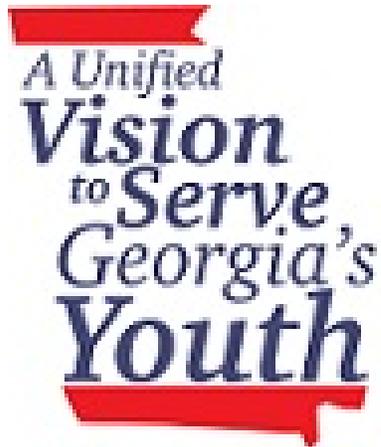
- 2015 – 24 deaths
- 2016 – 39 deaths
- 2017 – 42 deaths
- 2018 – 52 deaths (*highest on record*)

Because children are more vulnerable to heatstroke than adults, especially in the summer months, please share the following links to tip sheets and resources with parents and providers in your communities to help remind everyone to *look before you lock*.

Preventing Heatstroke Resources

- [Tips To Avoid Child Heatstroke](#)
- [Preventing Heatstroke: What To Do If You See a Child Alone in a Car](#)
- [How Much Do You Know About Preventing Child Heatstroke](#): Take a quiz to learn how to prevent child heatstroke in cars
- [Steps To Prevent Heatstroke](#)
- [Where’s Baby: Look Before You Lock](#): National Highway Transportation and

Professional Development Opportunities



Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Initiative

Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Standards Workshop

The Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Standards is a collaborative project funded and endorsed by several state agencies and offered to all youth development programs across the state as an opportunity to increase program quality. The Standards are grounded in research and best practices and include an easy-to-use self-assessment tool. This workshop will give participants insight into the Standards and how they could be used to evaluate and increase program quality.

Participants will:

- Understand the ASYD Quality Standards program improvement process;
- Learn how to use the ASYD Quality Standards Assessment Tool;
- Practice observing program practices; and
- Apply ratings to program practices.

This training was approved for 6 clock hours of credit by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning/Bright from the Start.

Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Location: Anderson Conference Center
5171 Eisenhower Pkwy, Suite D, Macon, GA 31206

[Click Here to Register](#)



Activity into Programming (ASYD Quality Element #5)

September 12, 2019 – Rainwater Conference Center- Valdosta, GA

Registration for this workshop will open two months prior to the date of the event.

Future Professional Development Opportunities

[Additional Information](#)

Summer Safety & Activities

HEADS UP is a series of educational initiatives, developed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), that all have a common goal: Protect kids and teens by raising awareness and informing action to improve prevention, recognition, and response to concussion and other serious brain injuries. The CDC has a wealth of information on helmet safety and protecting children.

Helmet Safety Your Child's or Teen's Helmet

Your child's helmet should fit properly and be:

- Well maintained
- Age appropriate
- Worn consistently and correctly
- Appropriately certified for use

While there is no concussion-proof helmet, a helmet can help protect your child or teen from a serious brain or head injury. Even with a helmet, it is important for your child or teen to avoid hits to the head.



[Click for More Information](#)

[Which Helmet for Which Activity?](#)

National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. National

Injury is the #1 killer of children and teens in the United States. In 2009, more than 9,000 youth age 0-19 died from unintentional injuries in the United States. Millions more children suffer injuries requiring treatment in the emergency department. Leading causes of child injury include motor vehicle crashes, suffocation, drowning, poisoning, fires, and falls. Child injury is predictable and preventable. It is also among the most under-recognized public health problems facing our country today.

Progress has been made in preventing child injury. Child injury death rates have decreased 29% in the last decade. Yet injury is still the leading cause of death for children and teens. More can be done to keep our children safe.

[Click Here to Read the National Action Plan](#)

Classic Coffee Filter Butterflies



[Click Here for Instructions](#)



Text "SUMMER MEALS" to 97779 | Decal.Ga.gov

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