

Supervision During Transportation

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.36(10)- Supervision of vehicles. A child shall never be left unattended in a vehicle.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(2)(l)- No child shall be left unattended on a vehicle.

Rule Type: Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To protect the health and safety of children during transportation services.

Clarification

The transportation of children is a high-risk activity and requires careful planning, and proactive and protective measures to ensure children's safety. Parents have an expectation that their children will be supervised while in the child care program's care. This includes during transportation activities. Children should be supervised by a staff person at all times, even when buckled into seat restraints. No child of any age should be left unattended in a vehicle due to the potential danger of the child leaving the vehicle, taking the vehicle out of gear or taking the parking brake off, being taken from the vehicle by an unauthorized person, or dying from heat stroke in a hot vehicle. Children have died when staff mistakenly left them in vehicles, thinking the vehicle was empty.

Cracking the windows or not parking in direct sunlight does not make a car significantly cooler. Heat stroke deaths have occurred even when the vehicle was parked in shade. A car can reach 110 degrees when temperatures are only in the 60s. Heat stroke can take place when the outside temperature is as low as 57 degrees. The body temperatures of children can increase three to five times faster than adults. Heat stroke begins when the body passes 104 degrees. Reaching an internal temperature of 107 degrees can be deadly. More than half of heat stroke deaths occur because a caregiver forgot the child in the car.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff shall never leave a child unattended on a vehicle.
 - Organizational TIP: Leave a phone, wallet, clipboard (or some other item) in the back of the vehicle every time children are transported. This will help remind staff of the need to check the vehicle to ensure no children are left unattended. Always ensure these items are not hazardous and are kept inaccessible to children.
 - TIP: Keep the vehicle locked when it is parked to prevent a child from entering the vehicle and becoming trapped.
 - Recommendation: Be extra alert when there is a change in routine, like when there is a different driver or a different route is taken.
 - Note: In the event of a child being left on a vehicle, get them out as quickly as possible and dial 911 immediately. Emergency personnel are trained to evaluate and check for signs of heatstroke.

- Reminder: Within twenty-four (24) hours or the next work day, the program shall report a child left on a vehicle to the Department. A copy of the Department's Incident/Accident Report Form may be found at: <http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/IncidentAccidentReport.pdf>

Resources:

Caring for Our Children

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/6.5.1.1>

Where's Baby

<https://www.wheresbaby.org/>