

A message from Johnny Humphreys of the Safe Kids Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car Texas Task Force

Close-call story

The following news story has a good ending: a child was rescued by EMS technicians from a hot car in Cedar Park (near Austin, TX): <http://www.kvue.com/news/local/Mother-arrested-for-leaving-son-in-hot-car-128846803.html>

It is notable that the rescue occurred because bystanders noticed the child unattended in a car and called 911. And that is one of the key messages of our campaign.

A related thing to keep in mind is that it is also important for *children* to know about reporting unattended children in a vehicle. Sometimes a child is the only person who notices another child unattended in a car. The observing child needs to understand this is an emergency and that he/she should report this danger immediately. Please include this information during educational outreach and presentations to children and families.

Interview with parent advocate

I also want to pass along to you a link to an interview with Kristie Reeves, a parent advocate from Austin who is part of the Texas Task Force. It was published on the website of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition: http://www.hmhb.org/heatstroke_in_cars.html During the interview, Kristie explains about Ray Ray's Pledge, a parent/caregiver contract to encourage better communication about a child's whereabouts. Some child care centers in Austin already participate in the system, a formal launch of the program for the central Texas area is coming soon.

Ray Ray's Pledge

Parents pledge:

- To inform their child care center in advance if their child will be absent or late.
- To keep the child care center informed of any changes in emergency contact information.

The child care center pledges:

- To call parents if the child does not arrive by his/her usual drop-off time.
- Periodically check with parents to update emergency contact information.

Updated Texas Task Force Activities

The attached Task Force Intervention Activities worksheet has been updated with many new entries. Please take the time to see what everyone has been up to. And please continue to send a brief email to me at the address below to report your activities.