

Safety Never Hurts



Beamer the Safety Bug's Safety Never Hurts Bulletin
for parents and caregivers of young children

WINTER EDITION

Don't let a moment of convenience become a lifetime of regret

It only takes a few seconds for a child to be put at risk when left unattended in a vehicle. "Just a minute", quickly turns into five minutes or longer. The risks range from medical emergencies to becoming a victim of crime. We have all heard media stories in which parents have left their small children in their un-attended vehicles both locked and unlocked and running. These cases have resulted in tragic circumstances that will remain with those parents for the rest of their lives. These incidents may also result in involvement with the Children's Aid Society and/or potential provincial or criminal charges.

What can possibly happen:

- Unattended children can accidentally put a car in motion
- A child may experience a medical emergency (ie: choking, overheating or freezing)
- Some children can remove their safety restraints and exit the vehicle, wandering off
- Children may adjust the windows possibly resulting in suffocation or death
- Your vehicle may be stolen with your child in it
- Your child may be abducted



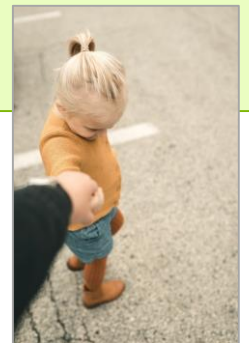
What you can do:

- Never underestimate the mindset and dexterity of a child
- Never leave your child unattended in a vehicle
- Do not lock your child and keys in the vehicle
- Keep your keys in your possession and away from your child
- ensure your vehicle is not left running and unlocked. (City of London bylaw fine of \$90)
- Plan your outings to fit both you and your child's schedule
- Use drive through services when possible
- Wake your child rather than leave them unattended



If you find a child unattended in a vehicle:

- Call 911 and provide them with the location, description of the vehicle including licence plate
- Remain on scene until help arrives
- Request assistance from others to attempt to locate the vehicle owner



Remember the time you spend with this child/vehicle can make the difference between tragedy and possibly saving a life. Is that too much of an inconvenience to you?

This seasonal bulletin is supported by Child Safety Middlesex London.
For more information about child safety, contact Child Safety Middlesex London
at 519-663-5317 ext. 3755 or www.healthunit.com/childsafety

child safety
Middlesex London

Safe Snow Play

With winter comes snow in Southwestern Ontario. It is great to find ways to still get outside and play in these cold, snowy months but remember these tips to ensure everyone is safe around snow banks.

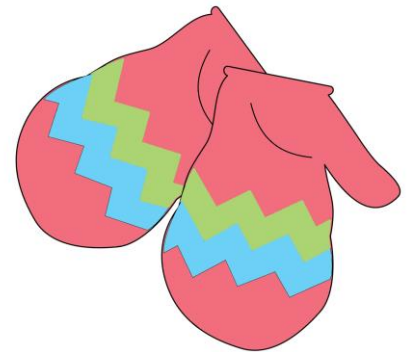
- Take extra caution when crossing roads, snow banks can make pedestrians less visible and icy roads can make it difficult for drivers to stop quickly
- Building forts and tunnels are a fun a snow activity, but they may collapse and trap someone. This activity should be supervised by an adult
- Road side snow banks can look like a good ramp for tobogganing but it is too easy to slide into traffic. Playing on roadside snow banks overall is dangerous because drivers and snowplows may not see you

Choose a location away from the road for snow play and make sure young children have adult supervision.



Tips for warmth and safety in the snow

- Dress children in layers of clothing.
- Cover children's heads and ears with toques.
- Children should wear mittens instead of gloves.
- Children should wear neck warmers instead of scarves and mitten clips.
- Young children should take frequent breaks indoors.
- Watch for signs of [frostbite and hypothermia](#).
- Instruct children to go indoors when they get cold.



Have you tested the Radon levels of your home? Find out more at <https://www.healthunit.com/radon>

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