Jessica Redden, RN
563-326-8618 Ext. 8821
Jessica.redden@scottcountyiowa.gov

Jennifer Stout, RN CLS
563-326-8618 Ext. 8829
Jennifer.stout@scottcountyiowa.gov

Child Care Nurse Consultants
Scott County Health Department
600 W 4th Street
Davenport, IA 52801

COVID-19 Resources
DHS
https://dhs.iowa.gov/
childcare-covid-19

HCCI
https://www.idph.iowa.gov/
hcci/products

CCR&R
https://iowaccrr.org/
providers/links/
resources2020/

CDC
https://www.cdc.gov/
coronavirus/2019-ncov/
index.html

Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.

Early Childhood IOWA
https://
earlychildhood.iowa.gov/

The Child Care Nurse Consultant Program is funded by

POWERED BY SCOTT COUNTY KIDS

Quality Care For Kids
A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers
Written by **Kim Gonzales MBA, BSN, RN**

Hot Car Deaths are Preventable
Policies and Parent Communication can Help

JULY 2022

Summer is already here as you read this July newsletter. Now that the weather is getting hotter it is important to learn about ways to prevent hot car deaths. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) since 1998, 912 children have died from being left in a hot car. These deaths could have been prevented.

Hot Car Death Facts
Source: NHTSA website

- About 46% of the time when a child was forgotten, the caregiver meant to drop the child off at a daycare or preschool.
- **Thursdays and Fridays** the end of the workweek have had the highest deaths.
- More than half of the deaths **(54%) are children under 2 years old.**

*credit:research data-Jan Null

TIPS
"Check for Baby"

- Parents and caregivers, get in the habit of always looking inside your car before locking the doors.
- Remember: **Park. Look. Lock.**
- And always ask yourself, **"Where's Baby?"**
  - For more safety tips visit NHTSA

NHTSA reports that "A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's. When a child is left in a hot vehicle, that child's temperature can rise quickly — and they could die within minutes."

Transporting children in a vehicle to and from child care is provided mainly by parents but some early childhood professionals also provide transportation not only to their program, but also for field trips. As an early childhood professional you can help prevent hot car deaths.

- One way is *good communication between caregiver and parent* as it can help reduce the likelihood of a child being left in a car unattended.
- Consider a practice if a scheduled child is more than 10 minutes late for arrival and the parent or guardian does not call, the program could contact the parent or guardian to make sure the child is not attending and hasn't been accidentally left in a car at the parents' or guardians' work.
- Another measure is a checklist that the early childhood driver follows by physically/visually checking all areas of the vehicle to account for all children that are being transported. These measures along with other measures implemented could help to save the life of a young child.

The temperature inside a car can reach over 115 degrees when the outside temperature is just 70 degrees. Source: NHSTA

For more information on preventing hot car deaths visit: https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/heatstroke

Caring For Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs best practice standard 9.2.5.1 m. Procedures to ensure that no child is left in the vehicle at the end of the trip or left unsupervised outside or inside the vehicle during loading and unloading the vehicle.
More on this standard at https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/9.2.5.1

Are you aware that young children don't sweat as easily as adults? Playing outside in the hot weather can be dangerous as well. A great resource to use to see if it is a safe temperature to play outside is the **HCCI Child Care Weather Watch chart** This handy chart for outdoor weather safety can be found on the HCCI printed products page. https://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products