

THE LINK

Engaging Families Together

From the Florida Department of Children and Families 

June 2021

Thank you for subscribing to The Link, our monthly "socializer" email for those who want to use their network to make an impact in their community. Together, we can get the message out to Florida families about the resources and initiatives here to serve them.



Monthly Focus

Beware of Heatstroke Risk as Temperatures Rise

It's June in the Sunshine State, meaning that the dog days of summer are right on our doorstep. With the season of extreme Florida heat quickly approaching, it's important to highlight the elevated risk for heatstroke and heat-related injuries among children.

Calendar



Check out June's observances and events related to DCF's mission that you can help to highlight!

Month Observances

National Healthy Homes Month - Familiarize yourself with housing-related hazards and [learn](#) how you can create a safe and healthy home environment for your family.

National Reunification Month - This month celebrates the families who have worked towards reunification after their child was placed in the child welfare system and recognizes the efforts across the country that help families stay together.

Hurricane Preparedness Month - Start preparing your hurricane safety kit this month! For a list of important supplies to

Most child heatstroke deaths are attributed to a parent accidentally leaving them in the backseat of a car after encountering a change in their routine or after experiencing an increase in feelings of stress and exhaustion. These tragedies can happen to anyone - even the most attentive parents or caregivers can forget a quiet or sleeping child in the backseat.

These deaths don't always occur when a parent forgets their child; the second leading cause of these deaths stem from children getting into an unattended vehicle when no one is looking. With a child's body temperature rising up to three to five times faster than the average adult, instances of heat stroke and dehydration can occur quickly and quietly.

The American Academy of Pediatrics lists important reminders for keeping children safe in the summer months regarding hot cars:

- Always check the back seat and make sure all children are out of the car before locking it and walking away.
- Have your child care provider call you if your child is more than 10 minutes late.
- Put your cell phone, bag, or purse in the back seat to ensure that you check the back seat when you arrive at your destination.
- Keep your car locked when it is parked to prevent a curious child from entering when no one is around.
- Remind children that cars, especially car trunks, should not be used for games like hide-and-seek.

[Read more about safety reminders from the American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

Social Shareables

keep your family safe, visit <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.

Hot Car Awareness Month - Familiarize yourself with ways to keep kids safe in the summer months with tips found [here](#).

Day and Week Observances

June 1 - **First Day of Hurricane Season**

June 15 - **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** - This day aims to raise awareness of the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly populations in our communities.

Become a foster parent!

Considering becoming a foster parent? Not sure what steps you need to take? The department has an information hotline staffed by former and current foster parents ready to answer any questions you may have!

Florida's Foster Information Center is open M-F, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1-833-FOSTERFL or 1-833-678-3735.

You may also request a call or an email [from a foster ambassador here](#).



Use these pre-written social media messages to help spread the word about hot-car safety!

- Did you know that in just 10 minutes, the temperature in a parked car can rise 20 degrees? As temperatures rise this summer, please double check to make sure you do not leave your child in a hot car. For more hot car safety tips, visit the link below! ??? [#HotCarSafety](#)

<http://ow.ly/izL950AgHMy>

- During the summer, a car can quickly heat to over 100 degrees. Parking in the shade or cracking a window is not enough to keep your child safe from the heat. Never leave a child alone in a vehicle and always [#LookBeforeYouLock!](#)
- Did you know that heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths in children under 15? If you see a child alone in a car, call 911 and stay with the child until help arrives. If the child is not responsive, immediately get the child out of the car. For more information on hot car safety, visit the link below! ??? [#LookBeforeYouLock](#)

<https://bit.ly/Hot-Car-Safety>

[Download social media images here.](#)

The Link is a monthly email from the Florida Department of Children and Families that connects community organizations, government agencies, businesses, and individuals with messaging opportunities relevant to strengthening Florida's families. Recipients are welcome to share any information and graphics from this initiative on social media.

For additional partnership opportunities, please contact HQW.Press.Office@myflfamilies.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [Florida Department of Children and Families](#).