Kids have endless energy, stamina and imagination, and they're always looking for a fun place to play. When kids see a parked car, they won't be thinking about the possibility of getting hurt or seriously injured.

Here are a few tips to keep your kids safe in and around cars.

1. Before leaving a driveway or parking spot, take a few seconds to walk all the way around your parked car to check for children.
2. See if anything such as a pet, bike or toy is under or behind your vehicle before getting in and starting the engine.
3. Designate an adult to supervise and find a safe spot for children to wait.

**Spot the tot**

**Frontover and backover prevention for kids**

When nearby vehicles are about to move. Make sure the drivers can see them.

**Identify and use safe play areas for children**

- Teach kids to play away from parked or moving vehicles.
- Consider making the driveway a toy-free zone.
- Work with your kids to pick up toys, bikes, chalk or any type of equipment around the driveway so these items don’t entice kids to play.

Accompany kids when they get in and out of a vehicle. Hold their hands while walking near moving vehicles or in driveways and parking lots or on sidewalks.
Have a Safe Kids summer!

**Safety Tidbit:**
**Prevent dog bites**
- Avoid approaching an unfamiliar dog.
- Do not scream around a dog or run from it.
- Do not disturb dogs while they are sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.
- When playing with a well-known dog, allow them to see and sniff you first.
- Children should be supervised by an adult or the dog owner at all times.
- If you notice stray dogs or unusual behavior in a dog, or you are bitten by a dog, immediately contact an animal shelter.

**Safe picnics**
As you gather outdoors for meals with family and friends, remember these four simple food preparation tips to keep unwanted bacteria and viruses from interrupting your summertime fun.
- **Clean:** Wash your hands and cooking or serving surfaces often.
- **Separate:** Don’t cross-contaminate foods.
- **Cook:** Cook foods to their proper temperature.
- **Chill:** Refrigerate foods promptly.

**Safe camping**
Remembering to pack chocolate, marshmallows and graham crackers is a must for the perfect s’more. Packing for the perfect camping trip can be just as easy with a little planning.

Before heading out to find the best spot to pitch your tent, review this basic checklist to ensure a fun and safe adventure.

**Get vaccinated**
Are your family’s vaccinations up to date? Vaccinations can help protect against certain diseases and conditions.

**Practice fire safety**
- Set up your campfire pit away from overhanging tree branches.
- Make sure it has a metal fire ring or is encircled with rocks.
- Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Use fireproof cooking equipment.
- Before you leave, be sure you put out your campfire completely.

**Avoid wild animals**
- Many wild animals carry diseases, such as rabies, viruses and infections.
- Avoid touching, feeding and getting near wild animals.
- Enjoy watching them from a safe distance in their natural surroundings.
- Keep foods stored in sealed containers and out of the reach of animals.
- Check skin and clothes for ticks regularly, and remove them promptly.

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Fight the bug bite
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothes and exposed skin according to directions on the package.
- Wear long sleeves and pants to keep ticks from reaching your skin.
- Choose light-colored clothing so you can spot ticks easily.

Stay safe in the sun
- Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun can cause skin cancer, premature aging and cataracts.
- Use a broad-spectrum (against UVA and UVB rays) sunscreen with at least SPF 30.
- Seek shade, particularly between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun’s rays are strongest.
- Cover up with clothing, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

Prepare for the unexpected
- Check weather reports
- Notify family and friends of your plans
- Bring along supplies to include:
  - First-aid kit including medications
  - Compass, GPS or map
  - Flashlight and batteries
  - Food, clothing and blankets
  - Fresh drinking water

For more information, contact Safe Kids at 859-323-1153 or visit www.safekidsfayettecounty.com.

“Like” us on Facebook.

Safety Tidbit: fireworks safety
Did you know that sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees? This is hot enough to melt some metals.

Fireworks and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July. But fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries or even death.

Protect children from these dangers and consider attending a fireworks display done by experts this year. Sit back and enjoy the show with your family.