Summer is just around the corner. Are you and your children ready? Here are a few topics to consider before kids are dismissed on the last day of school.

Never leave your child alone
- While in and around cars - **ACT** Fast
  - Avoid heat stroke, Create reminders, and Take action.
  - Safety reminders:
    - Never leave your child in the car for any amount of time.
    - Put items you will need at your next stop, such as a briefcase or cell phone, next to the car seat.
    - If you see a child in the car alone, take action and call 911.

Home alone – Is your child ready to be left alone at home?
- Often, there is a gap between children getting out of school and parents coming home from work.
- According to Latchkey-Kids, no child under age 12 should be home alone.
- CARE (call reassurance) is a program designed to call the home alone child at a specific time. If the child does not answer the call, a parent or caregiver will be notified.
- Use personal discretion when deciding when it is appropriate to leave your child at home alone. Consider maturity, impulses and amount of time you will be gone.
- For more information on how to sign up for CARE, visit [www.latchkey-kids.com](http://www.latchkey-kids.com)

Safety tidbit: Signs and symptoms of a heat stroke
- No sweating, rapid or weak pulse, red, hot, and moist or dry skin, nausea, confusion or strange behavior.
- If you notice these signs in a child, notify a health care provider immediately.
Safety tidbit: Preventing injuries from bike falls

- Always wear protective equipment, such as helmets, knee and elbow pads.
- Avoid riding bikes at night.
- Make sure the bike has reflective lights to ensure the bicycle’s visibility to others.
- Dress to be seen.
- Pay attention to car drivers. Always assume that they do not see you.
- Always supervise children while riding bicycles.

Safety tidbit: Stay safe around the pool

- Always have an adult present to supervise children.
- Enroll children in swim lessons to prepare for the upcoming season.
- Set clear rules and boundaries such as
  - Walk, don’t run.
  - No diving.
  - Stay away from drain covers.
  - Swim with a buddy.
- Have an emergency plan in place.
- Have safety equipment readily available.

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

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