

Keeping children safe around cars



16 Children were killed in driveway accidents 2006-10

We all take steps to ensure children are safe when travelling in cars, but too many children are still being injured or killed on their own driveway.

42% of parents in a recent survey* reported children picking up keys to the family car without being seen to do so.

Most often children are run over by members of their family. Young toddlers are most likely to be hit by a moving vehicle.

At least 16 children were killed in driveway accidents from 2006 to 2010 and there are many more near misses and cases where children are injured.

Children left alone in cars can get into difficulties, commonly getting fingers or necks trapped in doors or electric windows. In several instances children have released handbrakes, injuring other children, and in one case a child started a fire with a box of matches found in the car.

Many cars can be easily started by children...



Was formed in 2008 with the aim of preventing accidents involving children and vehicles.

accidents can be prevented

by following a few simple safety measures

- 1 Never leave children alone in a car
- 2 Make absolutely sure there are no children in the driveway or road before moving your car
- 3 Always keep your car locked when parking outside your house
- 4 Discourage children from playing in the driving seat – a car is not a toy
- 5 Always keep your car keys in a safe place – consider fitting a keybox with a combination lock
- 6 Check if your car has a feature to prevent accidental starting and look for this when you replace your car

Accidental Starting – It is not uncommon for children to start unattended cars, with potentially disastrous consequences. Iain's Trust has campaigned for safety measures to prevent cars being started by children.

In 2009 car manufacturers agreed to put a secondary safety feature on all new models with push-button starts, so cars designed from then will require the clutch or brake to be depressed before the car will start. However there are thousands of older cars (with manual transmission) which can be started with a simple turn of a key or push of a button – mere child's play!

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) ran an online survey on driveway safety in 2009. For details of the survey results and further information about keeping your child safe around cars please see www.rospa.com/childsafety/ontheroad. The Child Accident Prevention Trust are dedicated to reducing the number of children and young people killed, disabled or badly injured in preventable accidents; for safety advice visit www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice



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