

Vehicle Safety Inspection for Transporting Children Safely

Thorough scanning skills should be used when you place one of the children you are responsible for in any vehicle, whether it is your personal car, a facility vehicle or a parent volunteer's vehicle. Look for potential hazards, both external and internal to the vehicle. You should be alert to easily-identifiable danger signs. If you have any doubts about the safety of a vehicle, do not allow children, other than the driver's, to enter that vehicle. Immediately inform the driver of your findings about his/her vehicle. Document your conversation.

Problem areas to look for during an external vehicle scan:

- Obvious gas or oil leaks
- Low, flat, or bald tires
- Doors and windows that do not open or close securely
- Cracked or broken windshield
- Smoke from under the hood

Problem areas to look for during an internal vehicle scan:

- Seat belts enough to secure all child restraint systems or older occupants
- Lap/shoulder belts in rear outboard positions
- Air bags in the front (or back seats)
- Loose or hazardous objects (potential projectiles)
- Open or exposed chemicals, trash, food items

Suggested equipment to carry in vehicle:

- Vehicle registration
- Insurance information
- Spare tire and tools
- Cell phone, calling card or \$3.00 in change
- Emergency release form for each occupant
- Blankets
- Clean water (one-gallon jug plus disposable cups)
- First Aid kit
- Flashlight and/or flares
- Wet towel wipes or paper towels