



childline

Gauteng

☎ 08000 55 555

# CAR SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

## Children can be harmed in the following ways:

- **SEAT BELT / CAR SEAT** - small children need to be in a car seat, and older children must always have their seatbelt fastened to reduce the chances of severe injury or death in the event of a car accident.
- **BACKOVERS** - when a car is in reverse and the driver does not see the child. Always check all mirrors and blind spots before reversing.
- **FRONTOVERS** - like a backover; the driver is moving forward and doesn't see the child. Usually these take place in a driveway - always make sure there are no children playing in the driveway before getting into the car to drive.
- **HEAT STROKE** - locking a child in a car is extremely dangerous and can result in serious harm, including brain damage, or even death.
- **ELECTRIC WINDOWS** - these can hurt a child in various ways, trapping some part of the body and causing injury or death. Make sure you disable the mechanism in the back of the car, where children might push the buttons.
- **CAR BOOT** - children playing near a car might chose to hide in the boot of your car, which can be extremely dangerous, or fatal, if there is no internal release mechanism, or they don't know how to use this. Make sure your car boot is always locked.
- **SETTING THE CAR IN MOTION** - never leave children unattended in a car, as they may accidentally set the car in motion, resulting in injury or death.
- **PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS** - teach children where and how to cross roads safely. Always carry a small child, or hold their hand while crossing the road.