



# Water Safety

We all want to keep our children safe and secure and help them live to their full potential. Knowing how to prevent leading causes of child injury, like drowning, is a step toward this goal.

When most of us are enjoying time at the pool or beach, injuries aren't the first thing on our minds. Yet, drowning is the leading cause of injury death for young children ages 1 to 4, and three children die every day as a result of drowning.

## The Five Rules...

Teach your children these four key swimming rules:

- Always swim with a buddy.
- Don't dive into unknown bodies of water. Jump feet first to avoid hitting your head on a shallow bottom.
- Don't push or jump on others.
- Be prepared for an emergency.
- When at the beach swim near a life guard station

## Prevention Tips

- **Learn life-saving skills.** Everyone should know the basics of swimming (floating, moving through the water) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- **Fence it off.** Install a four-sided isolation fence, with self-closing and self-latching gates, around backyard swimming pools. This can help keep children away from the area when they aren't supposed to be swimming. Pool fences should completely separate the house and play area from the pool.
- **Make life jackets a "must."** Make sure kids wear life jackets in and around natural bodies of water, such as lakes or the ocean, even if they know how to swim. Life jackets can be used in and around pools for weaker swimmers too.
- **Be on the lookout.** When kids are in or near water (including bathtubs), closely supervise them at all times. Adults watching kids in or near water should avoid distracting activities like playing cards, reading books, talking on the phone, and using alcohol or drugs.

## **Fun Water Activities**

- 1. Experiment with Floating and Sinking**
  - 2. Have fun with Bubbles**
  - 3. Use Hot Wheels and have a mini Car wash**
  - 4. Give the kids big paintbrushes and let them paint with water**
  - 5. Give those stuffed animals an outdoor Bubble Bath**
  - 6. Dramatic play demonstrating entering a pool safely**
  - 7. Images of both safe and unsafe water skills and have children distinguish the difference**
  - 8. Paint with Ice: Mix water with washable paint and freeze in ice trays**
  - 9. Float boats down river in the yard using aluminum foil and trickle of water from garden hose.**
  - 10. Sponges or spray bottles**
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