



Do's and Don'ts

Do

- Teach children water safety and swimming skills as early as possible.
- Teach yourself water safety/rescue and swimming skills.
- Appoint a "designated-water watcher" to monitor children during social gatherings at/or near bodies of water.
- Always brief babysitters on water safety, emphasizing the need for constant supervision.
- Keep rescue equipment accessible at pool side and post CPR instructions.
- Invest in layers of protection for backyard pools such as: installing doors and windows that exit to a pool area with alarms and fencing with self closing latches.
- Maintain constant visual contact with children in a pool or pool area.
- Install a poolside phone, preferably a fully charged cordless model, with emergency numbers programmed into the speed dial.
- If a child is missing, check all sources of water near home first; seconds count in preventing death or disability.

Don't

- Don't rely on swimming lessons, life preservers or other equipment to make a child "water safe." There is no substitute for supervision.
- Don't ever leave a child alone in a body of water (bathtub, pool, etc.), 2 seconds is too long, let the phone ring.
- Don't allow children to push playmates, jump on others, "dunk" one another, dive or jump in shallow water.
- Don't leave objects such as toys that might attract a child in the pool or pool area.
- Don't use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- Never prop the gate to a pool area open.
- Never assume someone else is watching a child in a pool area.
- Don't leave chairs or other items of furniture where a child could use them to climb into a fenced pool area.
- Don't think you'll hear a child who is in trouble in the water; drowning is a silent death, with no splashing to alert anyone that there is trouble.