

PARENT NOTES



Did you know?

RESEARCH SHOWS NEARLY 9 OUT OF 10 OF CHILDREN WHO DROWNED WERE BEING SUPERVISED.

Research revealed by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign and Johnson & Johnson shows that 88 percent of children who drowned were under the supervision of another person, usually a family member. Supervision was defined as being in the care of another individual, not necessarily in their direct line of sight.

Drowning remains the second leading injury-related killer of children ages 1-14, claiming more than 900 children's lives each year. It is a complex issue with no single safety device that works in all cases.

Adults need to actively supervise children around water. This means watching and listening at all times and staying close enough to intervene in an emergency. Even when parents say they are supervising, many are participating in a variety of distracting behaviors including:

- ☺ Talking to others (38 percent)
- ☺ Reading (18 percent)
- ☺ Eating (17 percent)
- ☺ Talking on the phone (11 percent)

SAFE KIDS recommends adults take turns serving as the "water watcher" - whose sole

responsibility is to constantly observe children in or near the water.

Nearly 61 percent of pool or spa-owning parents do not have isolation fencing around their pools or spas, and 43 percent have no self-closing and self-latching gate.

Many school age children admit they never wear a life jacket when on a boat or when participating in water sports. One in five parents mistakenly believes that air-filled water wings can protect their child from drowning. It is estimated that 85 percent of boat-related drownings could be prevented if all passengers were wearing properly fitting life vests.

Nearly 74 percent of drowning victims studied did not know how to swim. Seventy-three percent of victims ages five to nine and 30 percent of victims ages 10 to 14 were non-swimmers. Although the majority of parents agree that all children should have swimming instruction by the age of eight, 37 percent of parents report that their child has never taken lessons. SAFE KIDS recommends that children should be enrolled in swimming lessons with a certified instructor by the age of eight.

For more information on swim lessons contact your local YMCA or County/City Parks and Recreation Department.

WATER SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR ADULTS

- Never leave children alone near water.
- Tell children never to run, push, or jump on others around water.
- Learn infant and child CPR.
- Children should always wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.
- Inflatable inner tubes and "water wings" are not safety devices.
- Keep toilet lids down.
- Keep doors to bathrooms and laundry rooms closed.
- Children in baby bath seats and rings must be within arm's reach every second.
- Teach children to swim after age 4
- Make sure children swim within designated swimming areas of rivers, lakes and oceans.

<http://www.safekids.org>



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