

5

Truths About Children Who Drown

1. Lack of Supervision

DO:

- Actively supervise children around water at all times– have a phone nearby in case of emergency.
- Always stay within arms reach of your child when he or she is swimming in or is close to water.

DON'T

- Leave a child alone in the water just because they have “floaties” on.
- Read, talk on the phone, chat with other adults, or drink alcohol while supervising children in water.

2. Lack of Barriers

DO:

- Make sure your pool has four-sided fencing and a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- Cover and lock hot tubs when not in use.
- Install a pool alarm.

DON'T

- Leave water access unsecured.

3. Lack of Home Safety

DO:

- Empty all buckets, wading pools, and other containers immediately after use. Store upside down.
- Drain the tub immediately after bath time.
- Keep bathroom and laundry room doors closed.
- Use toilet seat locks.

DON'T

- Leave children unsupervised in the bath tub or in any areas where bodies of water are present.
- Allow older children to supervise your child in the tub. Young children require adult supervision in the tub at all times.

Each year, 830 children below the age of 14 die as a result of accidental drowning. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among children ages 1 to 4. In 9 out of 10 drowning deaths, a parent claimed to be supervising the child. Follow the tips under each of the 5 truths to avoid preventable deaths...

(www.safekids.org)

4. Lack of Swimming Skills

DO:

- Enroll your children in swimming lessons
- If you do not know how to swim– enroll in parent-child swim classes.

DON'T

- Allow your child near any body of water unsupervised even if they know how to swim.
- Allow your children to dive into the shallow end of a pool, run and dive, or dive into any body of water less than 6 feet deep.

5. Lack of Life Jacket Use

DO:

- Purchase enough life jackets for your boat or personal water craft.
- Have your child wear a life jacket every time you go boating or on a dock.
- Avoid alcohol consumption when boating or on open water.

DON'T

- Leave life jackets at home or in boat storage compartments simply because the boat isn't moving.

Water Safety Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Kids with life jackets or “floaties” on do not need to be supervised...

Fact: Even children wearing safety gear can drown or suffer from drowning related injuries.

Myth: Drowning is noisy. I will hear my child in time to help...

Fact: Drowning is silent, and often, children are discovered too late to save.

Myth: I don't vacation or live near the water, so my child is safe from drowning...

Fact: Water hazards at home such as buckets, “kiddie” pools, and

