

MAY 2011

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois' 20 Ways

May is Childhood Drowning Prevention Month

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death among children ages 1 to 4, and second leading cause for children 1 to 14.

1. Appoint an adult who can swim to watch children in the pool. The supervising adult should not read, talk on the phone or do any other distracting activity.
2. Swimming lessons will not make your child "drown-proof". Good swimmers can drown.
3. Keep ladders, furniture and toys away from above ground pools. Toddlers are great climbers.
4. Fence your pool completely, install a gate, and a pool alarm.
5. Young children should wear flotation devices but these devices do not replace supervision.
6. Remind caregivers to never leave children unattended near water.
7. Keep pool water clear and remove toys when pool is not in use.
8. Learn CPR! Keep rescue equipment, telephone, emergency numbers near all pools.
9. Even use caution around baby pools. It can take less than 2 inches of water for a child to drown. Empty baby pools when not in use.
10. Teach children to stay away from pools unless with an adult. Neighbors may have pools and your child may wander there without an adult.
11. Never leave a young child alone in a bathtub or allow a sibling to watch a younger child.
12. Infant tubs and seats are bathing aides, not safety devices.
13. Keep toilet lid down and use a seat lock.
14. Put a latch on the bathroom door to keep unsupervised children out.
15. Five gallon buckets, washtubs, and coolers pose a threat. Empty and store out of children's reach.
16. When picnicking in a park or campground, find out ahead of time where bodies of water are and make sure children are supervised while they explore.
17. Older children and teens will take more risks in water. Remind them to stay within designated area and swim with a buddy.
18. In winter water may not be completely frozen. Stay off the ice!
19. Decorative ponds or fountains in yards are also a risk.
20. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer the phone or run to the restroom. Supervision is the key to preventing accidental drowning.

Be Water Wise...SUPERVISE!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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