

# Keep Kids Safe from Drowning

**Drowning happens when you least expect it.**

In Florida, drowning is the #1 cause of preventable death in children 1-4 years of age.

To reduce the risk of drowning, utilize multiple layers of protection, be aware of and restrict unsupervised access to water sources such as pools, hot tubs, canals, ponds, ditches, bathtubs, toilets and more.

Working while schooling children from home poses additional risks of drowning for young children due to increased distractions.

Always be alert and aware of potential drowning risks.

**IF A CHILD IS MISSING, ALWAYS CHECK THE WATER FIRST**



**VISIT: [WATERSMARTFL.COM](http://WATERSMARTFL.COM)**

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## **SUPERVISE**

**Proper supervision is the most effective drowning prevention**

- Know your surroundings and possible drowning risks to your child at home and when traveling
- Ensure young children are always supervised by a trusted caregiver
- Assign a Water Watcher and use touch-supervision anytime children are playing in or near water
- Never leave a child alone near water, even for a second

## **BARRIERS AND ALARMS**

**Utilize barriers to water access**

- Install and maintain 4-foot pool fencing and self-closing, self-latching gates and doors
- Secure and lock all doors, windows and pet doors
- Install door chimes or alarms
- Routinely check for needed repairs to fencing, gates and barriers

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- While most child drowning incidents occur in a pool, nearly 70% of those children were not expected to be in the pool at that time
- Distracted caregivers are a primary factor in child drowning incidents
- Drowning happens without a sound
- All drowning incidents are preventable

## **BE PREPARED**

- Seconds count! CPR training saves lives
- Water survival skills training and swim lessons can help reduce drowning risk for children between ages 1-4
- By their 4th birthday, most children are ready for swim lessons
- Swim lessons are not a replacement for supervision
- Make a family drowning prevention plan and ensure all family members know how to swim