

Safety with Supervision:

Promoting active supervision when children are in or around water



Fast Facts

- Almost 1,000 children in the U.S. drown each year
- Nearly half of drowning deaths are among infants and toddlers
- Infants are most likely to drown in bathtubs
- Most drowning deaths among children ages 1-4 occur in residential swimming pools

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024

Assign an Adult to be the “Water Watcher”

When children are in or around water, there should be a responsible adult assigned to be the Water Watcher. This adult agrees to actively supervise the children without engaging in distracting activities, like looking at their phone. Water Watcher lanyards can be ordered for free at PoolSafely.gov. Wearing the lanyard shows this adult is ready to be the Water Watcher!



Drowning is Preventable!

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 through 4 years. In 2018-2023, 127 children younger than 18 years drowned in Indiana. Drowning is preventable and active supervision is one layer that helps keep children safe when in or around water! In addition to active supervision, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends swim lessons for children beginning at one year of age. It is recommended that adults become CPR certified to be able to assist in a situation where a drowning may occur.

Source: National Drowning Prevention Alliance, 2024

88% of drownings occur with at least one adult present

Source: National Drowning Prevention Alliance, 2024

Responsibilities of the “Water Watcher”

- Watch the children and never leave them unattended
- Regularly scan the bottom of the pool
- Avoid distracting activities
- Keep a phone near by for emergency use only
- Call 911 and follow advice to administer CPR if necessary
- Locate and learn to use all pool safety equipment

For additional information contact:
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information and
resources on our
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