

# Water Safety

Playing in and around water is fun, soothing and good for your toddler's development. But it also poses a danger. Toddlers are attracted to water but don't understand the risks. They lack balance and can easily fall in. And because their lungs are small, they can drown in as little as an inch (2½ cm) of water.

You can make it safer by:

- supervising and staying within arm's reach whenever your child is around water
- holding hands when you're at the beach or near a pool or pond
- having your child wear a well-fitting, government-approved life-jacket when they're around water or in a boat



### DANGER

It only takes seconds for a toddler to drown, so stay within arm's reach – even if they're wearing a life-jacket.



### DID YOU KNOW?

A life-jacket is safer than a personal flotation device (PFD). Life-jackets float better and will keep your toddler's mouth out of the water.

## Safer Pools and Garden Ponds

- ✓ Empty your toddler pool when you're not using it. Turn it upside down so it won't collect rain.
- ✓ Cover and lock a hot tub that's not being used.
- ✓ Ensure any nearby pool is fenced and covered, and that pool chemicals are locked away. Be sure there's nothing your child could climb on to get into the pool area.
- ✓ Teach your child to play safely around water – no running, pushing, diving or unsupervised swimming.
- ✗ Don't let your child use a hot tub, which can overheat them.
- ✗ Don't rely on toys like water wings or air mattresses to keep your toddler safe.
- ✗ Don't rely on a pool cover to keep a child out.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Taking swimming lessons doesn't mean your toddler will always be safe in the water. Always supervise them and stay within arm's reach.

## Safer Baths and Bathrooms

See Preventing Bathroom Injuries.

