



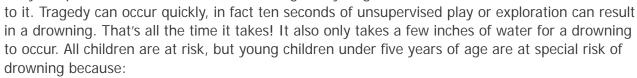
Water Safety

Keeping children safe while in your care

Water play, as well as visits to playgrounds with water features (e.g. lakes, streams, splash pads or wading pools) are popular activities in the summer. These activities can pose a drowning hazard to young children. Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among children ages 1 to 4.

Understanding the risks

Toddlers and preschoolers are naturally curious about water. They are persistent and resourceful in finding a way to get



- They are attracted to water but cannot understand the danger
- They can walk but they cannot swim
- They lack balance and coordination which means they can easily fall into bodies of water
- Their lungs are smaller than adults and fill quickly with water

You can ensure that water play and swimming is as safe as it is fun by following a few basic safety tips.

Never leave children unattended around water

There is no room for compromise on this one. Babies can drown in as little as one inch of water.

Give children 100% of your attention when they are near or around water

Practice active supervision, a combination of staying close, giving full attention, watching, and listening. Whenever young children are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's reach to provide active supervision.



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Empty all tubs, buckets, containers and wading pools immediately after use

Store them upside down and out of children's reach.

> Don't rely on swimming aids

Remember that swimming aids such as water wings or noodles are fun toys for kids, but they should never be used in place of a Canadian approved personal flotation device (PFD).



> Be aware of entrapment hazards

Pools that pose the greatest risk of entrapment are children's public wading pools, in-ground hot tubs, or any other pools that have flat drain grates or a single main drain system.

> Ensure that children cannot access back yard pools unsupervised

Back yard pools need to be securely enclosed (i.e. a 1.2 meter high, four-sided fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate).



Contact your Licensing Officer for information regarding the Fraser Health guideline titled "Outdoor Play Areas - Swimming and Wading Pools"

If you have any questions contact the Licensing Officer assigned to your facility or visit the Fraser Health website at: www.fraserhealth.ca/childcare