

A young child with short brown hair, wearing a light purple sleeveless dress with pink floral patterns, is sitting on the edge of a small, light blue inflatable pool. The child's feet are in the water, and they appear to be looking down at their feet. The pool is on a gravel surface. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting.

Not even for a second!

Never leave a child unattended around water.

A child can drown in just a few inches of water within seconds – often without any splashing or screaming.

Prevent a tragedy before it happens.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of child deaths each year.

Keep your kids safe around water by following these simple guidelines:

- ▶ Never leave a child unattended around water.
- ▶ Teach your child to swim at an early age – always have an ADULT supervising.
- ▶ Flotation devices or inflatable toys are not substitutes for supervision.
- ▶ Don't mix alcohol and supervision of children near water.
- ▶ Enclose pools completely with a self-locking, self-closing fence, and don't leave furniture around that children can use to climb over the fence.
- ▶ Never leave toys in the pool – children may be tempted to reach for them later.
- ▶ Be sure that the adult watching your child knows how to swim, get emergency help and perform CPR.
- ▶ Keep rescue equipment (such as life preserver or shepherd's hook) and a telephone near the pool.
- ▶ Be sure to remove pool covers completely to reduce the risk of children getting caught underneath.
- ▶ Always drain and store in an upright position all plastic or blow-up wading pools after use.
- ▶ Secure the pool so that children cannot get back in after they are finished swimming.



Department of Children and Families
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