

# A Parents Guide to Water Safety



Drowning is still one of the top causes of injury and death in children. Children can drown in pools, rivers, canals, ponds, lakes, or the sea, and they also drown in a few inches of water in baths, toilets, and large buckets.

In the summer months we know families enjoy being in the garden, but of course many family gardens contain ponds, water butts or barrels, paddling pools or even hot tubs and swimming pools, all of which can be a potential hazard.

Children must be supervised at all time in and around water. No one, adult or child, should also ever swim alone.

Swimming lessons are not a way to prevent drowning; even a child who knows how to swim can drown a few feet from safety.

The Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children's Board have put together the following information about how to keep your children safe in or around water at home, on holiday and near open water.



[www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk)





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## **Tips for Water Safety at Home**

Prevent children from gaining access to pools of water when they are unsupervised.

Securely cover all water storage tanks and drains.

Empty paddling pools and buckets when playtimes finished.

Never leave a baby or child in the bath unsupervised, not even for a minute.

Never leave a baby or child alone in a bath seat.

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## **Tips for Water Safety on Holiday**

Check the safety arrangements of any water-based activities. Ask where the safest places to swim is.

Never let your young children out of your reach – supervision is the key to preventing serious accidents.

Swim with any children in your care.

Never enter the water after drinking alcohol.

Do not use inflatable dinghies or lilos in open water.

Do not swim near to or dive from rocks, piers, breakwater.

Swim parallel to the beach and close to the shore.

Constantly supervise children in a swimming pool.

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## Tips for Open Water Safety

If you have a pond always supervise closely.

Be careful visiting gardens or parks that have open water.

Take notice of any warning signs.

Stay clear of bank edges when walking next to open water.

Children should learn to swim as soon as possible.

Weirs, quarries and canals are not safe places to 'hang out', swim or play for young people

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