



Did you know?

- Drowning is one of the main causes of accidental death in babies and young children
- Babies and toddlers drown silently and can drown in as little as 5cm of water. So even rainwater collecting in a bucket can be a danger for a small child
- More babies and young children drown at home, in the bath, in garden ponds and paddling pools than elsewhere
- In the last six years, 30 children under 10, from the UK, have drowned in hotel or villa pools whilst on holiday abroad, and some have drowned in private pools in the UK too. This usually happens when the child wanders away from their parents or carers
- Most adults report their child had been missing or left unattended for less than five minutes
- Drowning in babies and young children is preventable
- Adult supervision is the key to your child's safety



Useful websites

Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT)

www.capt.org.uk

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)

www.rospa.com

The Royal Lifesaving Society UK

www.drowningpreventionweek.org.uk

The Danger Age – a short film about potential dangers of water to young children

www.almt.org/the-danger-age-video

Information about Wiltshire Council services can be made available on request in other languages and formats such as large print and audio.

Please contact the council by telephone on 0300 456 0100 or email: customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

Water safety for babies and young children



What can you do?

Babies and young children usually love playing with water, and they need to do this, to explore, develop and learn about the world around them.

You can help them learn, by joining in, and playing alongside them in or near water.

Baths

- Stay with your baby or young child when they are in the bath and pull the plug as soon as you've finished.
- Bath seats can be a great help, but they are not a safety aid and babies can wriggle out of them – don't leave your baby alone, even for a few seconds.



Adult supervision at all times is the key, to keeping your child safe in or near water.

In the garden

- Empty the paddling pool after use
- If you have a pond, turn it into a sand pit or fence it in or cover it while your children are small
- Be alert to drowning risks when visiting friends and family



Out and about

- Be extra vigilant at private swimming pools at home and abroad, as they may not be fenced off, with a self-locking gate, or have a lifeguard on duty.
- On the beach, swim in lifeguard patrolled areas, between the two coloured red and yellow flags and keep your child with you at all times.
- Think twice about letting a young child take an inflatable into the sea, as it is easy for them to be blown out to sea, quickly.
- Always supervise your children when they are in or near the sea

