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THE INJURY
PREVENTION
PROGRAM

Pool Safety for Toddlers

An unfenced swimming pool is one of the most dangerous consumer products in a home with toddlers and young children.

If possible, do not put a swimming pool in your yard until your children are over 5 years of age.

If you already have a pool, protect your children from drowning by doing the following:

- Never leave your child or children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment.
- Because "constant supervision" of your children in your home is not always possible, you must have a physical barrier to separate your children from the pool.
- Most young children who drown in pools wander out from the house and enter the pool. Install a fence around all four sides of the pool that completely separates the pool from the house and play area of the yard. Use gates that are self-closing and self-latching, with latches higher than children can reach.
- Know that automatic pool covers (motorized covers operated by a switch) that meet standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) add to the protection of your children but should not be used in place of the fence between your house and the pool. After swimming, cover the pool completely so that children cannot slip under the pool cover.
- Keep rescue equipment (shepherd's hook, life preserver, etc) and a telephone by the pool.
- Many air-filled "swimming aids" are not a substitute for approved life vests and some can even be dangerous.
- Anyone watching young children around a pool should learn CPR. Even fencing your pool and using a pool cover will not prevent all drownings. Know what to do to rescue your child if needed.
- Remove all toys from the pool after use so children aren't tempted to reach for them.

Remember, teaching your toddler how to swim **DOES NOT** make your child water safe.

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on the individual facts and circumstances.

American Academy of Pediatrics



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