

# Pool Safety

**SOS**  
**Swim**

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## SUPERVISION

- Supervision is the first, and most critical line of defense to prevent drowning.
- Segment Supervision by designating a specific period of time to devote your complete and undivided attention to your child who is around the water (10-15 min. Is a good amount)
- Don't answer the phone, don't read and don't talk to other adults - give your child 100% of your attention
- Designate one parent as the Water Watcher so there are never questions about which adult is responsible for watching the child
- Do NOT designate supervision to an older child or sibling. It is too much responsibility.
- Don't rely on the lifeguard to watch your child. Lifeguards are there to enforce pool rules. They can't watch everything. There can be as many as 25 patrons for each lifeguard.



## PERMANENT FENCES

- Permanent four-sided fencing that encloses the entire pool area.
- Fence height should be 4-6 feet tall with self-closing, self-latching gates.
- Vertical bars should be no more than four inches apart.
- If you already have temporary baby fencing, make sure the entry gate is ALWAYS replaced in the locked position.
- NEVER prop the gate to a pool open.
- Don't leave furniture near the pool area. Children are climbers.

## POOL WATER

- Keep water level as high as possible (2-3 inches from the top to allow smaller children to reach the side more easily.
- Direct all jets to the shallow end of the pool near the steps.

## POOL TOYS

- Outdoor toys should be stored in an area that is isolated from the pool deck
- Keep your pool deck clean and clear
- Pool tools (hooks and hoses) are not pool toys. Do not allow children to play with them.

## ALARMS

- Install high locks and alarms on ALL doors and windows that lead to the pool.
- Make sure pet doors do not access the pool directly.

## EMERGENCIES

- If a child is missing, ALWAYS look in the pool or spa first. Other locations are not as time sensitive.
- Keep rescue equipment poolside.
- Always have a phone poolside.
- CPR & 1<sup>st</sup> Aid- Everyone who cares for your child should be certified. Even though these are after the fact emergency management techniques, Every moment counts.

## EDUCATE YOUR CHILD

Teach your child survival swimming skills. Infants as young as 6 months can learn to Rollback-to-Float providing valuable moments. Children as young as 1 year can learn to Swim-Float-Swim to safety.

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