



**STOP  
DROWNING  
NOW**

## *The Importance of Water Watcher Cards*

The Water Watcher Card is a tool developed to encourage active supervision whenever children are in, on, or around water. The Water Watcher Card designates the person who has the responsibility for watching the children. Adults agree to share this responsibility and pass the Water Watcher Card within designated time periods, such as every 15 minutes, to ensure that someone is actively supervising all children in, on, or around water.

Utilizing the Water Watcher Cards means that there are no gaps in active supervision.

### **Remember:**

- Children drown quickly and silently - in a matter of seconds.
- Adults who were present when a child drowns were often distracted in some way, by talking on the phone, chatting with other adults, or reading.
- Children under five and adolescents between the ages of 15-24 have the highest drowning rates. (source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- It is estimated that for each drowning death, there are 1 to 4 nonfatal submersions serious enough to result in hospitalization. Children who still require cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the time they arrive at the emergency department have a poor prognosis, with at least half of survivors suffering significant neurologic impairment. (source: American Academy of Pediatrics)
- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, a child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone.
- Of all preschoolers who drown, 70% are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning and 75% are missing from sight for five minutes or less. (source: Orange County, CA, Fire Authority)

There is no "Waterproof" or "Drownproof." There is always RISK around water, no matter swim abilities.