

Amy highlighted very important info that might not be on other PDF's.



Topic 1 - Introduction

Dear Parents, Family Members and Caregivers,

Welcome to the Safer 3 community where working together we can reduce the risks of the number one cause of unintentional death in young children... drowning. Your child is already making progress toward becoming a "Safer Me" by participating in the Safer 3 Program and learning about water safety.

The **Safer 3** focuses on improving water safety in three important areas:

Safer Water:

- Identifying water-related risks and how to reduce those risks around the home, in the neighborhood and around other bodies of water such as creeks, lakes, and beaches.
- Learning the importance of having and respecting protective barriers (fences, gates with locks, and covers for hot tubs and pools) to reduce risks.

Safer Kids:

- Knowing the importance of learning to swim.
- Learning that all children, even those who can swim, need alert, active adult supervision whenever they are in or around the water.
- Making Water Smart Choices such as following the rules and wearing a Coast Guard approved lifejacket.

Safer Response:

- Having an Emergency Action Plan and practicing it to know how to respond if a water emergency occurs. This includes adult family members learning adult and child CPR, emergency response procedures, and first aid.
- Having a phone available at all times and knowing how to use it to call 911.

Although bathtubs, pools, lakes, rivers, and oceans can be fun to play in, there is always a danger for harm, injury or death. **There is no "safe" when it comes to the water.** We can only be **safer** by lowering the risks. Following the Safer 3 reduces those risks, and makes water experiences **safer** and more enjoyable for everyone.

Common dangerous situations include when:

- Unsupervised children get into a backyard pool or hot tub.
- A child who is not a strong swimmer is in a pool during a pool party. If no adults are actively watching, then a child struggling in the water may be overlooked.
- A child with swimming skills tries to rescue another child. He puts himself and others in danger if he does not know how to help the child without creating a situation that is risky for both of them.

We hope you will "Get on board with the Safer 3... Catch the wave and ride it!" as we work and learn together. Ask your children to share what they are learning then use the Safer 3 to help your family and friends have safer water experiences.

Thank you for helping your children learn about water safety.
Thank you for following the Safer 3!