Safety Bulletin
Water Safety 2013

To: All Child Day Care Facilities

Purpose: To protect the health and safety of children who attend child day care facilities. Drowning can happen very quickly and in only a few centimeters of water. An increasing number of children drown each year due to inadequate or inappropriate supervision of water related activities.

Child day care facilities are advised not to take groups of children to bodies of water such as pools, lakes, ponds, oceans, rivers or streams.

Water related activities have added risk which must be assessed, and appropriate safety precautions must be put in place to protect children from harm.

The following practices and precautions should be taken to protect the health and safety of children in child day care settings:

1. Children must never be left unattended during water play related activities.

2. Active supervision (direct and constant) must be maintained at all times:
    - Consider whether additional care providers, volunteers, parents are needed
    - Always maintain visual contact and close proximity
    - Continually scan the water play area
    - Listen and observe at all times

3. Ensure the water play area or activity is appropriate for the age, physical and developmental abilities of all the children in the group.

4. If wading pools are used, empty them daily and store upside down to prevent water accumulation.

5. Keep safety equipment and first aid supplies nearby at all times.

6. Teach children about water safety.

7. If a swimming pool or hot tub is part of the facility environment, ensure appropriate preventative measure, such as fencing and locks are in place to reduce unsupervised accessibility.

Note: Your local Health Authority Community Care Licensing Program may have additional water safety policies; please contact your local licensing officer.

This safety bulletin is issued by:

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