Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages one to four.

For information on home safety, or any other parenting matter, call the Florida Parent HelpLine at 1-800-FLA-LOVE. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The call is free and confidential.

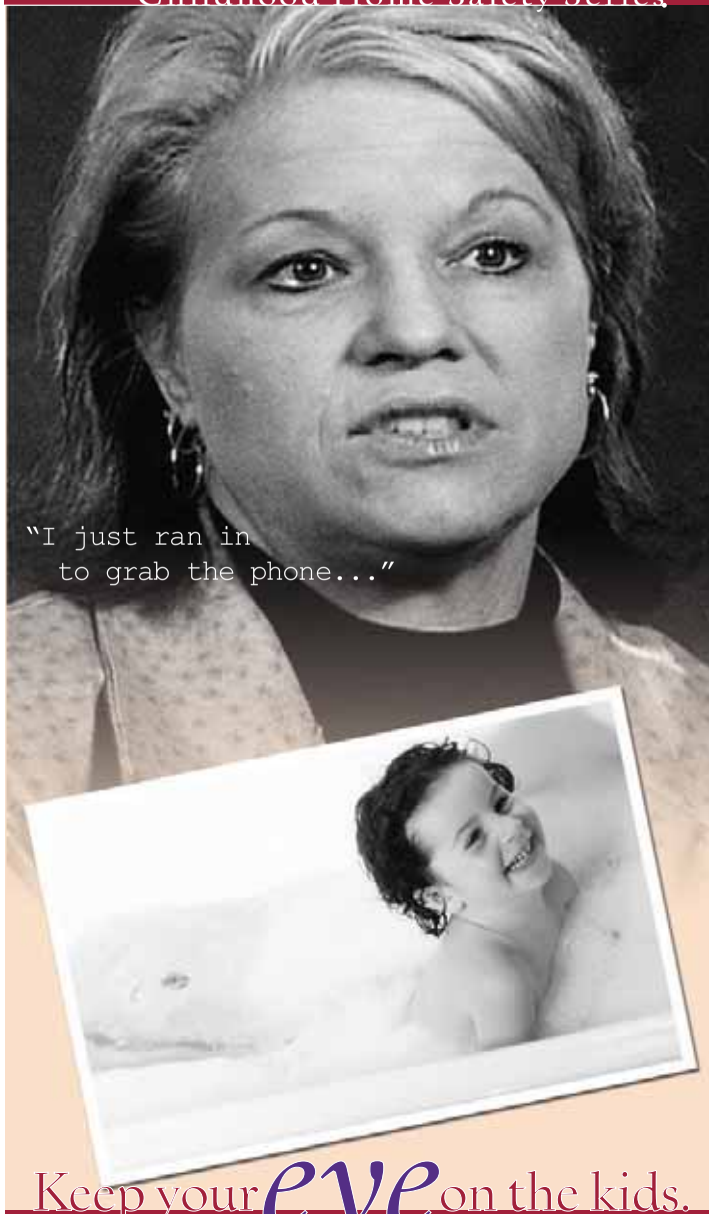
www.ounce.org

Prevent Child Abuse
Florida

The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Childhood Home Safety Series



Keep your *eye* on the kids.

Preventing Childhood Injuries from Drowning

Keep your *eye* on the kids.

Adult supervision is the *most effective* prevention strategy.

AS CHILDREN GROW AND ENTER NEW stages of development, their environment can present new dangers. Childproofing is an ongoing task that serves to increase the amount of time it takes for children to get into dangerous situations.

MOST DROWNING INCIDENTS OCCUR IN RESIDENTIAL POOLS; however, young children can drown in less than two inches of water.

Pool submersions *involving children happen quickly and silently, with most child drowning victims missing from sight for* **less than 5 minutes.**

Fences, barriers and alarms add an extra layer of protection.

- Install fencing, pool alarms, door locks or other barriers whenever possible.
- Always secure safety covers and barriers to prevent children from gaining access to pools, spas or hot tubs when not in use.
- Never disable an alarm or prop open the gate to a pool barrier.
- Learn to swim and teach children how to swim.
- Flotation devices and swimming lessons are not a substitute for adult supervision.
- Remove toys from in and around the pool area, especially riding toys.

Each year children **drown** *in bathtubs, buckets, coolers, ponds, ditches, fountains, hot tubs, toilets, pet water bowls and wading pools.*

Most childhood drowning deaths occur when the parent or caregiver becomes distracted by the telephone, doorbell or chores around the home.

Children can drown in a matter of seconds. If a child is missing, check the water first.

- Children must always be supervised by an adult when playing in or around water.
- Never allow a young child to be responsible for a younger sibling or playmate.
- Empty buckets immediately after use and store them upside down and out of a child's reach.
- Keep toilet seats down and consider using a lock or toilet clip to prevent toddlers from opening the toilet.