

DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY:

- allowing older children/siblings to supervise younger children or relying on lifeguards or others to supervise your child
- drinking alcohol while swimming in the pool and supervising children
- leaving children unattended in and around the pool. If you leave the pool or water area, even for a minute, take your child with you
- having a coffee, using your phone, or reading a book around the pool area
- leaving the pool area to do the gardening, wash the car, or going inside the house
- allowing children to run around playing games in and out of the pool area
- turning your back on young children when swimming in the pool
- leaving a pool gate propped open, and not having a compliant pool fence/barrier.

SUPERVISE
around the pool

ENCLOSE
the pool with a fence

ACTIVELY
check the pool gate and fence

LEARN
CPR and to swim



WATER SAFETY EDUCATION

Visit the [SEAL Pool Safety Programs](#) website to find out about Learn to Swim lessons and CPR Sessions for children and adults, and handy resources

Kids Alive - Do the Five educate the community on the importance of water safety and reduce the risk of children aged 0-4 years from drowning. The website also has resources and educational videos for both adults and children.

Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ) offer a number of programs such as the Keep Watch Program and Swim and Survive Program

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **SEAL Pool Safety Programs:**
ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal
- **Swimming Pools, Spas and Safety Barriers:**
ipswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe
- **Queensland Building and Construction Commission:**
[Qbcc.qld.gov.au](http://qbcc.qld.gov.au)

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this document is general in nature and, before relying on the material in any important matters, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness, and relevance for their purpose. This document is not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The Ipswich City Council does not accept responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost, or expense incurred as a result of the use of, or reliance on, information contained in this document. These guidelines are not intended to be, and should not be, relied upon as the ultimate and complete source of information on swimming pools and spas of a dwelling.

For more information, please contact council's SEAL Pool Safety Program on (07) 3810 6120 or email poolsprogram@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Pool Safety

Keep children safe around pools and spas with these helpful hints

ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal



SUMMERTIME, WATER, SWIMMING, AND POOLS GO HAND IN HAND

Pools are everywhere, and more and more families are using their pool, attending pool parties with family and friends, or visiting their local swim centre or beach.

Along with all the fun we have while swimming, water safety should be our number one priority.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of five in Queensland. Active adult supervision, swimming lessons, learning basic CPR, and having compliant pool and spa fencing can save lives.



A child or toddler can drown within 20 seconds, in as little as 50mm of water.

When a child drowns:

- it happens quickly - within seconds
- they cannot splash
- they cannot yell
- they cannot breathe
- you won't hear them.

A child drowning is silent.

ACTIVE ADULT SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

- Be prepared by ensuring you have everything you need **before** entering the pool area/ water, such as towels, sunscreen, dry clothes, toys, flotation device, etc
- Be familiar with your child's swimming ability and **always** keep within arm's reach when in the water
- If supervising from out of the water, **always** be ready to get into the water in an emergency
- Leave **any** distractions outside of the pool area, such as phone, iPad/computer, book, etc
- **Always** maintain visual contact - focus all your attention on your child by getting in the water and playing with them.



BE ATTENTIVE AND PROACTIVE BY:

- actively supervising children at **all times**
- explaining to children that they should always follow the pool rules and why
- regularly checking the pool fence/barrier is safe and making sure it is compliant
- making sure the gate is self-closing and self-latching and replace if it no longer self-latches. Gates should only open outwards away from the pool
- keeping the pool gate **closed** at all times - it only takes seconds for a child to drown
- ensuring there are no climbable objects such as furniture, trees, or shrubs that a child can use to climb over the fence or open the gate to gain access to the pool area
- putting away toys and flotation devices in and around the pool area, when done using them, so a child won't be tempted to enter
- learning Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and to how to swim
- enrolling your child in a learn to swim program
- ensuring there is a current CPR sign displayed clearly to anyone near the pool
- ensuring the pool is registered with the QBCC (Queensland Building and Construction Commission).

