



**Your child
Your pool
Your responsibility**

Supervise!

Supervision: effective prevention

Proper supervision of small children near water is the most effective measure in preventing drownings. Of the 111 drownings of under-four-year-old children from 1994 to 2003, 75% were attributed to lack of adequate adult supervision. A further 373 children were hospitalised as a result of near-drowning, many suffering irreversible brain damage as a result.

Domestic swimming pools can be a source of family enjoyment, but a deadly hazard for unsupervised small children. It takes just seconds for a child to drown. Besides approved pool fencing or other pool access barriers, supervision is the most important factor in preventing these needless tragedies.

Supervision guide

Children up to 5 years

Parent or adult must be in the water, holding or staying within arm's reach of the child.

Children 6 to 10 years

Parent or adult must be at the water's edge and have constant eye-contact with the child.

Children 11 to 15 years

Parent or adult must personally supervise or nominate a responsible pool lifeguard to provide overall pool safety supervision.

Appoint at least one lifeguard to be dedicated to pool safety whenever the pool is in use. Supervising adults should be proficient with CPR for children.

Besides compliant safety fencing or other devices, supervision is essential for child safety around pools, particularly for children under six years of age.

Checklist for poolside child safety

■ **Supervise children in or near water always**
Adults must be in the pool either holding or within arm's reach of a child under 5 years. Children from 6 to 8 years must be supervised at poolside. Learn CPR for children.

■ **Avoid distractions while supervising**
Supervision is a constant duty, not an occasional glance while entertaining, reading, telephoning or texting. Appoint a capable lifeguard for group poolside activities.

■ **Never leave a child alone in a pool area**
If you have to stop supervising, even briefly, take the child with you while you attend to other tasks.

■ **Teach your child about water safety rules**
Educate your child from first pool or beach visits.

■ **Remove toys from the pool area after use**
When the pool is unattended, remove all pool toys from inside the pool fence, away from temptation.

■ **Never prop safety gates or doors open**
If a small child is present, ensure gates or doors to a pool area close and latch automatically.

■ **Be alert when visiting a home with a pool**
When you have a child in your care at a property with a pool, ensure that all pool safety measures are in place. Supervise children closely in unfamiliar surroundings.

■ **Ensure compliance** with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987, NZS 8500:2006 and territorial authorities.

■ **Keep climbable objects clear of pool fencing** Check that trees, woodpiles, rocks, bricks, bins or other items cannot assist a child's access to the pool area.