



New campaign to educate parents of young children about water safety.

A campaign to educate parents about water safety for under-fives has launched as new statistics reveal 88 per cent of all child drownings happen in the absence of adult supervision.

The Royal Life Saving Society UK Splash Safety at Home campaign highlights the importance of constant supervision around water for babies and young children. Data from the National Child Mortality Database shows that most child drownings happen when children are left unsupervised, often in the home, including baths, hot tubs and swimming pools. Children can drown quickly and silently in only a small amount of water, even when wearing armbands or flotation aids. Parents and carers are encouraged to stay within arm's reach of children at all times around water to help keep them safe.

Going into the summer, RLSS UK is encouraging everyone to follow its advice to stay safe in and around water at home and in the garden:

- Supervise at all times. Keep young children within arm's reach when in or around water at home, even if they are wearing swimming aids such as armbands. This includes supervision at bathtime.
- Don't allow older siblings to supervise in the water.
- Avoid distractions such as using a mobile phone, drowning can happen silently and in a matter of minutes.
- After use, cover it and replace hot tub and swimming pool covers immediately.
- Keep ponds and pools out of bounds by locking back doors and garden gates and fencing off water areas with sturdy fencing at least 4ft high. Fit a strong mesh or grill that can support a child's weight or fill in ponds until your child is older.
- Always empty paddling pools immediately after use.
- Empty and turn over containers holding rainwater and turn off hosepipes at the tap.



RLSS Top Tips for enjoying water safely at bath time

GET PREPPED

Get towels, toiletries and bath toys ready to go before filling the bath.

KEEP CLOSE

Always keep your child within arm's reach. Remember, babies can be can be slippery when wet and soapy, meaning they can easily slip under the water.

STAY TOGETHER

If you need to leave the bathroom, take your child with you.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Leave your mobile phone outside the bathroom.

CHECK

That all the water has drained out of the bath after use. Toys can easily block the plughole, leaving water unexpectedly in the tub.

TIDY

Keep the plug and toys out of reach when not in use. Shut the bathroom door to limit children's access.

For more information, go to the Royal Life Saving Society website:

[Splash Safely at Home | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](#)

