


This newsletter is designed to raise awareness of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and to bring news on our ongoing campaigns

Drowning Prevention

Tragically, we have reviewed the deaths of a number of children from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who have died as a result of drowning



48% of deaths occurred in the warmer months. Research from Bournemouth University (2024) found when the temperature reaches 25c there is a fivefold increase in accidental drowning risk.

Young people can be drawn to open water - weirs, quarries and canals are not safe places to 'hang out', swim or play. **Don't take risks around water.**

Children need to be supervised in and around water. They might understand instructions but are likely to forget if they are having fun.

A drowning child/young person can't speak or control their arms. They slip quietly under the water. It's only in the movies they splash about and cry for help.

- Teach older children to choose safe places to swim like public pools and beaches with lifeguards.
- Explain the dangers of swimming in open water like rivers, lakes and reservoirs, strong currents, deep, cold water and things under the surface they can't see.
- Even on a very warm day, open water can still be cold enough to cause cold water shock. This physical reaction makes it hard to control breathing or to swim, causing swimmers to panic.
- Talk them through what to do if this ever happens. Explain how the reaction will pass quickly, so they need to recognise it and control the panic enough to be able to float.
- Teach your child to float . The RNLI has a great video.

CAPT offer safety advice to reduce the risk of drowning. The Float to Live campaign reduces the chance of panic when people get into difficulty in water.



In the garden

- Watch children when they are in or around water, without being distracted.
 - Keep young children within arm's reach.
 - Securely cover all water storage tanks and drains.
 - Empty paddling pools, containers, buckets and watering cans, as soon as they have been used and turn them upside down. Cover hot tubs after use.
- Make sure older children are accompanied every time when they swim
 - If you have a pond always supervise closely, fence it or fill it in !
 - Always turn hosepipes off at the tap, so children cannot fill vessels themselves.

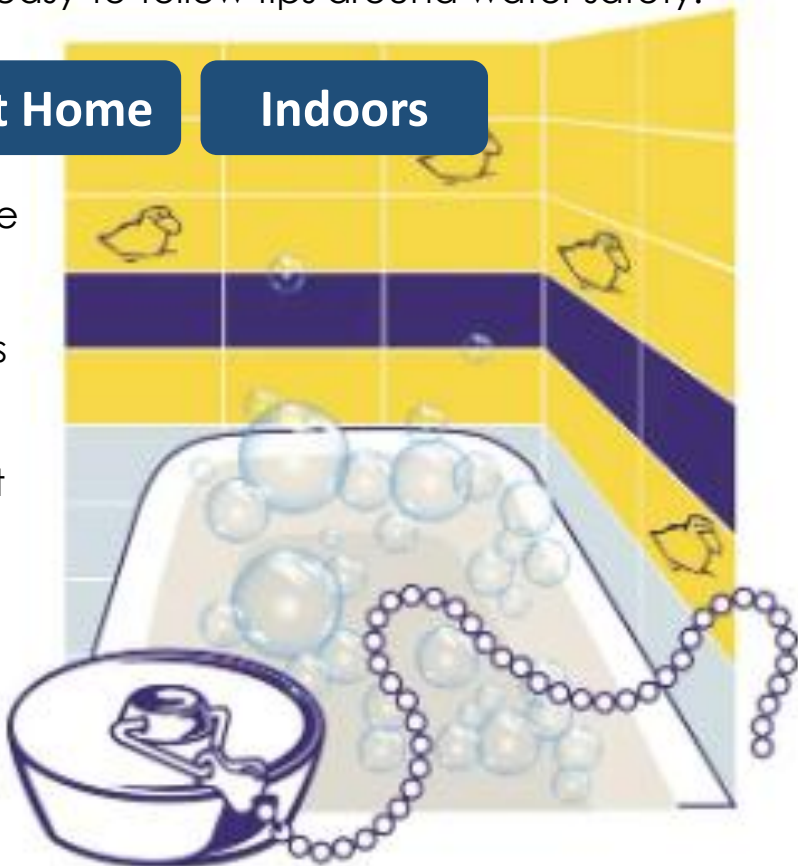
Further information on water safety can be found on RoSPA's website, CAPT website and the NHS website. The Royal Life Saving Society have recently launched the 'Splash Safety' Campaign.

Drownings around the home are easily preventable. The Royal Life Saving Society have created these easy-to-follow tips around water safety.

Tips for Water Safety at Home

Indoors

- Always supervise bath time (never leave children unattended)
- Empty the bath as soon as possible after use
- Close toilet lids and use toilet seat locks to prevent drowning
- Keep doors to bathrooms and utility rooms closed
- Vulnerable adults and children who suffer from sudden seizures should consider using showers rather than baths



Did you know that children can drown in as little as 2cm of water?

!Never Leave children unattended near water!