Quality Care For Kids Newsletter

July 2024 | Water Safety in Child Care Programs

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN, BSN, Healthy Child Care Iowa Program Coordinator

When the weather is warm, a water activity is often an easy way to allow children to play outside. There are some safety tips to consider when children are in your care and playing in the water.

Parents and caregivers can follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) simple steps to keep children safer in and around the water:

- Never leave a child unattended when they are in or near water.
- An adult should **always** be actively supervising children when they are in or near water. Adults should not be reading, texting, using a phone or being otherwise distracted.
- Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults.
- Make sure you and your child know how to swim.
- Install layers of protection such as door alarms, pool covers, and self-closing, self-latching devices on fence gates and doors that access pools to prevent an unsupervised child from accessing the water.
- Keep children safe by avoiding pool drains, pipes, and other openings.
- Make sure pools and spas have drain covers that comply with federal safety standards.

Learn more about pool safety at

www.poolsafety.gov

Iowa child care providers with water hazards located near play areas should:

- Enclose the play area with a fence that is at least four feet high, non-climbable and does not have gaps.
- Above-ground or in-ground swimming pools without fences should have covers that meets ASTM International specifications when not in use.
- According to Caring For Our Children's national standards for child care, "portable wading pools should not be used because they promote transmission of infectious diseases and are not safe."

Scan the QR code to find your local CCNC or visit online at **https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci**

Safe alternatives for cooling play activities for children:

Sprinklers or water hoses

Small, individual buckets of water

Water tables

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