

Paying attention to kids near water key to keeping them safe

By Warren Withers

For kids, summertime sure does ramp up the fun. And when it's hot, it's water they want. Consider these reminders when kids are looking to make a splash.

Watch them like a hawk. Pay close attention whenever kids are in or near water – and always keep little ones within arm's reach. Texting, phoning, reading or doing yard work could be risky distractions.



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Take precautions with pools. Remember, it takes only minutes for kids to wander away into danger.

Issue life jackets. These are especially important for the lake, but consider having young or inexperienced swimmers use them in swimming pools too. Water wings – inflatable arm flotation devices – are great for beginners, but children must be carefully supervised, as the devices are not a life jacket and will not prevent a child from going under the water.

Always know where they're going. Remind kids to ask before going near water, and never entrust their care to another child.

Don't forget the sunscreen. Always put kid-friendly sunscreen on your child before going outside, starting at 6 months of age. Be sure to re-apply every two hours and after getting out of the water. Hats, clothing and plenty of shade will help with sun protection in the Lake Tahoe area.

Most of all, have fun with your kids, and enjoy the summer.

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