

## Water Watcher Requirements

- Check every face every 10 seconds, constantly scan the water
- Stay alert and free of alcohol consumption
- Have a phone available
- Be positioned to reach every child within 20 seconds
- Call for backup when necessary
- Have throwing devices, reaching devices, signaling devices close at hand
- Think ahead, know pool safety rules
- Ideally CPR certified
- Wear swim attire; ready to launch a rescue

## Cloudy Water

A clear view of the pool from the surface to the bottom is essential for safety. Cloudy water is a death trap for anyone that falls below the surface.



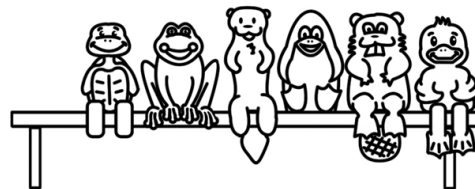
**Drowning Is Preventable  
Watch Your Kid,  
You'll Be Glad You Did**

## Drowning Facts

- Drowning can occur regardless of someone's swimming ability
- Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children under 5 years of age
- Children can drown in as little as 1 inch of water

## Drowning Is Quick & Silent

- 🕒 Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes
- 🕒 Most children who drown are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents
- 🕒 Irreversible brain damage can occur in as little as 4 minutes
- 🕒 Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6 to 10 minutes



*Water Smart  
Water Watchers*

## What is a Water Watcher?

A **designated, sober** adult assigned the responsibility to **supervise children in & around water**

## Why is a Water Watcher Necessary?

**To prevent drowning  
&  
Water-related injuries & disabilities**

## Where is a Water Watcher Needed?

**Anywhere there is water & children**

- Pools – in ground, above ground, portable pools of all types
- Spas, hot tubs, whirlpools
- Bathtubs & toilets
- Buckets, ice chests
- Containers of water
- Canals, lakes, ponds
- Irrigation ditches, post holes
- Fish tanks, fish & landscape ponds
- ANY WATER

## What is a Water Watcher Tag?

A Water Watcher Tag identifies the adult responsible to supervise the area

A Water Watcher tag\* makes it clear as to who is assigned the responsibility at any time.



\*Available through  
FL Department of Health, Broward

Water Watchers may wear other forms of identification such as a whistle or hat

## How Long Should a Water Watcher Supervise?

20-30 minute intervals

If the water watcher must leave the area and a replacement is unavailable, the child or children should also exit the water, and the pool area should be secured until a Water Watcher is available.

Watersmartbroward.org

## Water Watcher Responsibilities

- **Face the child or children** in the water at all times
- **Never engage in distracting activities** when supervising children in and around water, such as texting, talking eating, internet browsing or socializing
- **Never** leave the child or children in and around the water alone, **not even for a brief moment**
- **Continually scan** the surface and bottom of the pool or swim area
- **Leave the area** only if relieved by another adult Water Watcher
- **Be prepared to evacuate swimmers if weather conditions become threatening**
- **Remember:** swim lessons, water wings and inflatable toys are not substitutes for adult supervision
- U. S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Devices do not substitute for adult supervision

## In the Event of an Emergency

- **Yell for help to call 911 & assist other swimmers out of the water**
- **Remove the child in distress out of the water immediately**
- **Begin CPR or First Aid if necessary**

## Is One Water Watcher Enough?

Multiple water watchers may need to be assigned in situations of:

- Large social gatherings
- The skills of one or more children require touch supervision:  
*Touch supervision is when the child is always within arm's length of an adult and is essential for a child with poor or no swimming skills*
- A child is prone to health issues such as seizures, wandering or other risky behaviors
- When the configuration of the pool, ornamental shrubbery or anything else blocks full view of the swimming environment

*Consider hiring a certified lifeguard for large gatherings that include pool or water activities*

*Individuals who are likely to supervise children in and around water should:*

- Never leave children in and around water alone, not even for a brief moment
- Never engage in distracting activities, such as texting, phone conversations, internet browsing
- Be trained in CPR and basic water rescue techniques

