13th June 2016

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**Water Safety Week 18th- 26th June**

Dear Colleagues,

Young children can be fascinated by water and splashing about is great fun. With summer approaching please raise awareness of the importance of keeping children safe near water by displaying resources and engaging parents and carers about this important safety message.

**Did you know?**

* Babies and toddlers drown silently in as little as 5cm of water; even rainwater collecting in a bucket can be a danger for a small child (CAPT)
* Young children can also drown in swimming pools. In the last six years, 30 children under 10 have drowned in a hotel or villa pool abroad. This usually happens when they wander away from their parents and fall into the pool (CAPT)
* Most drownings involving two to three year olds happen in the home and garden (CAPT).

**Top tips for a safe splashy summer**

* It’s safest to empty a paddling pool after use and securely cover water tanks and drains
* Consider filling in garden ponds or make sure they are securely covered. Also make sure the garden is secure so that a child can’t get to a neighbour’s pond
* On beaches check when the tide will be high and low and make sure that you won’t be cut off from the beach exit by the rising tide
* Inflatable dinghies or lilos are a well-known hazard – it’s easy for them to be blown out to sea
* Children need to be supervised around water. They might understand instructions but are likely to forget if they are having fun or are excited (CAPT).

**Resources**

* [Child Accident Prevention Trust](http://www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice/keeping-your-child-safe-drowning). Information and advice including leaflets –
* Toddlers and up - Top safety tips
* How safe is your child in the garden? Also available from [www.westsussex.gov.uk/healthpromotion](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/healthpromotion) Code L09/32
* [Royal Lifesaving Society Drowning Prevention Week](http://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety/drowning-prevention-week/) Information and advice about beach and pool safety
* [RNLI](http://rnli.org/safetyandeducation/teachersandyouthleaders/resources/downloadresources/Pages/respect-the-water.aspx)Downloadable activity posters primarily aimed at 4+ years, but could be used to engage younger children.