After birth defects, drowning is the No. 1 cause of death for children ages 1-4 years. Many of these children drown in pools at people’s homes – often during times no one was supposed to be swimming. Children can climb out a window, crawl through a doggy door, or exit an unattended door to get to the pool. Drowning is silent and happens in minutes.

Every pool should have a fence that surrounds all four sides, especially the side that separates the house from the pool. The fence should be non-climbable, at least 4 feet high, and have a gate that is self-closing and self-latching.

Swimming lessons can help reduce the risk of drowning for children. Some kids may be ready to start swim lessons after age 1.

Pool covers, door alarms, window guards and pool alarms can be additional layers of protection when used with a fence.

An adult should constantly watch children at all times when they are in or by the pool.

Keep toys out of the pool when not in use.