



Parental close supervision is the best way to protect our young children from drowning

Summer is here and the urge to enjoy the bountiful water environment is upon us. As a grandparent, I'm acutely aware of the risks in water environments and I don't flinch from spending time promoting the learning and confidence aspects of little Bradley being in the water. He is constantly within my reach and I'm anticipating his every move so that any risks are minimized. As a result, at 14 months old, he is growing in water confidence and just loves the water at the beach or at the pool. Parents and caregivers must not assume that having young children in sight while they are in the water, is adequate supervision; it is not. An excited kiddy takes just seconds to disappear from view so don't hold back with close supervision or refrain from sharing this valuable advice with others that may unknowingly be in a vulnerable situation themselves. The United Nations, the World Health Organisation and the International Safe Communities movement each proclaim that *every individual has a right to safety*. By protecting our young children, we're building a future.

Page this issue

1. Water Safety & Parental supervision
2. Rural Safety this summer
3. Staying Safe on MySpace and other online avenues
4. Summer BBQ observation



Child Safety on Farms and Rural Camping Grounds

Farms can be wonderful places for children, where independence and responsibility are fostered and family relationships are strengthened.

The farm environment provides children with valuable and unique experiences that enable them to develop both socially and physically, even though they are in an isolated setting. However farms are also workplaces and evidence shows that this places children at greater risk of injury when playing or helping out around the farm.

A study in Australia found that about a third of all injuries on farms resulting in death were farm visitors. There may be many children hailing from the Shore that will visit a farm or rural properties this long summer break so injury risk awareness is important.

Main causes of injury to children on farms: 0-4 yrs. old—drowning (dams, rivers, creeks, pools, water troughs, irrigation channels and animal dips), farm vehicles and machinery, especially tractors (e.g. falls and run-overs).

For children aged 5-14 yrs. the key causes of death and injury are farm machinery, farm motorcycles, other vehicles and animals (mostly horses)

Why are children particularly at risk of farm injury? The farm is both a

family home and a work place which means that children are often exposed to work place hazards not present in urban homes.

The child—growing and changing
Children grow and progress through stages of: physical, intellectual and emotional development. Children are not only smaller, they see the world differently to adults and are



not always rational, cautious or able to foresee unsafe consequences. Children will learn and develop farm safety skills as they grow and gain experience under supervision. However, full responsibility for personal safety should not rest completely with children, even if they appear competent in some situations or have been given rules to follow. The safety of children is always an adult responsibility—primarily the parent or carer, managers, farm workers and other adults visiting the farm.



Reasons for ATV/ quad bike injuries amongst children

- Children younger than 16 do not have the physical size, strength, coordination or motor skills to operate an ATV, especially adult-sized ATVs that reach speeds over 60 miles per hour
- Young drivers might not have the mature judgement and coordination required for the safe handling of an ATV
- Safe driving requires more than just long arms and legs - but also perceptual abilities
- Children riding adult-sized ATVs, inadequate driver training and not enough helmet use are contributing factors to many ATV crashes





Staying safe on MySpace—Guide for Parents

MySpace.com is one of the internet's leading social destinations for connecting with friends, discovering content and culture, and making a positive impact on the world. By integrating web profiles, blogs, instant messaging, email, member forums, music, video, photo galleries, classified listings, events, groups and school and university students, MySpace has created a more connected community. MySpace Terms of Use Agreement only permits those aged 13 years or older to use the site.

Teens use MySpace to connect with friends and find other people that share similar interests. They may well be also exposed to issues of others, different cultures and countries throughout the world. Parents need to understand that it is about how they are using it that can be problematic. Ask them what kind of information they have posted and ask them to show you what their MySpace page looks like and how they created it.

It is well worth the parents visiting MySpace.com to see and read for themselves to many components to MySpace and the safety site www.myspace.com and click on the 'Safety Tips' link at the bottom of each page.

Advice for parents

To help guard privacy, children should be encouraged to ask a parent or carer before they give anyone on the internet their personal details. Once information is posted online it is very difficult to remove. Children should be encouraged to learn how to use their privacy settings on their profile sites, so that information they post is not publically accessible.



Starting young



Holiday Preps you must do: Check your current 1st Aid Box and identify at least one item that you must get on the next shopping outing.

Something for burns, cuts, abrasions, stings & strains. Do a few or all of the top-ups and you'll feel pleased you did. Have a very safe holiday this summer and a very Merry Christmas. Wayne Williams & the Safer North team.



Summer BBQ's

Enjoy your summer BBQ's but always keep safety in mind. Burns are nasty and destroy fun times. We know they are avoidable so please focus on safety at all times when cooking

