

Young Children and Water

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you know about this subject?

Definitions:

- Partial – only part; not all
- Incident – something that happens
- Screened-in pool – a pool that is enclosed by a wire netted structure



Reading

16 A 2 year old boy was at a family barbeque. When family members noticed him missing,
35 they started a search. The child was found face down and **unresponsive** in six inches of water in a
53 large garden planter. A chair left next to the planter provided access for the child. The cause of
56 death was drowning.

76 A 7 month old girl was placed in a bathtub seat in a bathtub in her home. Her father sat
95 with her for about fifteen minutes. He then left to check on a running faucet in the kitchen. When
113 he returned to the bathroom with his wife, they found the young child floating face down in the
131 bathtub. The bathtub seat was partially on top of her. They had purchased the bathtub seat about a
150 week before and had removed a support brace because it did not fit the design of their bathtub. The
155 cause of death was drowning.

174 A 1 year old boy was found in the watery solution of a 5-gallon bucket used for mopping.
191 It occurred in the afternoon and several people were nearby. The cause of the death was drowning.

209 A 19 month old boy was left on the back porch of his grandparent's home while his mother
226 went to the bathroom. A screened-in pool was near the porch. The mother heard a splash but
244 thought it was the family dog jumping into the pool. When the mother returned, she found the dog
263 in the pool along with her young son who was floating face down. The child had entered the pool
280 by climbing through a small tear in the screen surrounding the pool. The cause of death was
281 drowning.

281 These drowning fatalities are real. The cases are from medical examiners throughout the
294 country. According to a 2004 report from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission,
307 "drowning is the second leading cause of death to children under 5, after motor vehicle incidents."
323 Water and young children can be a deadly mix.

332 Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – *Consumer Product Safety Review*, Fall 2005 & Summer 2006

Level 5.0

Understanding

1. What may have caused the drowning of the 7 month old girl? _____

2. What does the word **unresponsive** mean? _____

3. What does the death of the 2 year old teach us? _____

4. How do we know that drowning deaths of young children are a national concern? _____

5. Could these deaths have been prevented? If yes, how? _____

6. What safety precaution was present in the case of the 19 month old? Why did it fail? _____

7. Where could young children drown? (List at least places.) _____

Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: What experience do you have with water and young children?

Option C: What information was new to you? What did you learn?
