



## Water Safety Important as Summer Begins

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According to the Injury Prevention Coalition fact sheet on drowning in Lee County, Florida the majority of toddler drownings occur while a family member is “watching” the child at his or her home, the grandparent’s home, a friend’s home or a relative’s home. Before discovered missing, the child was last seen less than 11 minutes ago. Drowning “season” is March through September in Florida, signified by doubling of the drowning rate, but new data shows children ages 1-4 drown year-round without any significant increase during any “season.” Approximately one quarter of Lee County drowning deaths are children under the age of 5.

Bonita Springs Community Pool held their annual Safety Day this past weekend. “The reason we do this every summer is that we want to educate parents and children alike about the importance of water safety. It can save lives.” -Bill Wood pool supervisor.

That is exactly what the Community Pool did. Lifeguards took groups of children through three stations set up on the pool deck. The first station named Reach Don’t Go had a child in the water simulate a struggling swimmer while a child on the deck through in a towel to assist the struggling swimmer. The Look before You Leap station was a kiddie pool filled with dirty water, rubber sting-rays, snakes, and other lurking items. The Lifejacket station taught kids the importance of wearing the right size lifejacket.

A tip reiterate throughout the day was, “Drowning is silent and fast. Supervision is your child’s best protection.” No one knows this better than Beth Plumley Pediatric ICU Nurse at Health park Medical Center. This is why she donates her time to educate the community about water safety.

“One minute a family is enjoying a day in their pool. The next they are in ICU. The guilt they experience is unexplainable. It can happen in a second. I’ve seen children die. I’ve seen children become brain dead. It’s awful.” -Pediatric ICU Nurse Beth Plumley.

The community came out in full force to help make this event a success. “We hope this summer is fun and safe for everyone. Hopefully with more events like our Safety Day our community will be able to prevent the unnecessary tragedy of drowning.” - Bill Wood

Swimming Lessons are available at the Bonita Springs Community Pool. Please call the pool at 239-947-1948 for more information or visit [www.bonitaspringsrecreation.org](http://www.bonitaspringsrecreation.org) -L.T.