

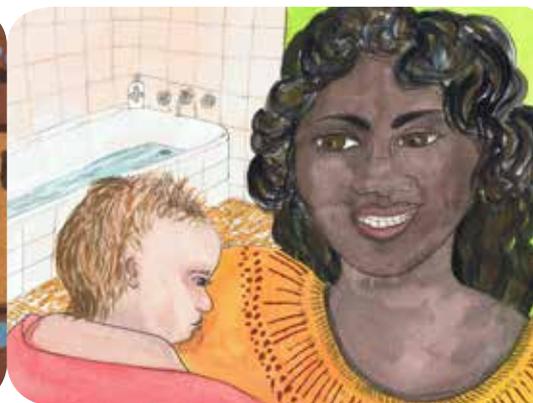
BATH TIME SAFETY

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



Royal Life Saving

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA



Q: How many bathtub drowning deaths happen each year?

A: In Australia, on average, every year 5 children under the age of 5 drown and 47 are hospitalised due to bathtub drowning incidents. One in four hospitalisations results in permanent injury such as brain damage.

Q: When do bathtub drowning deaths happen?

A: A large number occur when there is an interruption such as the doorbell or phone ringing while the adult is bathing a child.

Q: Why do adults leave their child unsupervised in the bath?

A: Adults leave their child unsupervised in the bath because they are:

- Fetching forgotten clothing/towel
- Doing the washing
- Doing the dishes
- Attending to other children
- Answering the door
- Answering/making phone calls
- Going to the toilet

Q: Can I leave my child alone for a small amount of time?

A: No, if you must leave the bathroom – take your child with you. Do not leave children in the care of older children, they may not recognise the amount of danger a young child may be in.

Q: Can you use a bath seat as a bathing aid?

A: Yes, but they do not prevent children from climbing or falling out of the seat and drowning. Adults should not believe their child is safer in a bath seat.

Bath Time Safety Checklist:

- Everything ready for bathing
- Cold water run first and turned off last
- Tested water to ensure it is comfortably warm
- Water kept to a minimum depth
- Child actively supervised by a responsible adult
- Child supervised within arms' reach and never left alone

ACTIVELY SUPERVISE
@ BATH TIME

BE PREPARED

BE WITHIN ARMS' REACH
ALL OF YOUR ATTENTION
ALL OF THE TIME

Real Life Story - Dangers of bath seats

A 12 month old has drowned in a bathtub after being left unsupervised in a bath seat. Although extremely distraught, when interviewed the child's father believes he left the child alone in the bath seat for between 2 and 4 minutes, during which time the child slipped out of the bath seat and drowned.

This case, and others like it, highlight the dangers of relying on devices such as these to keep children from drowning in the absence of adult supervision.

KEEP WATCH, PROTECT YOUR MOB

Contact Royal Life Saving NSW on:
02 9634 3700 or download from
www.royallifesaving.com.au

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