





















# SUMMER SAFETY MYTHS 2026

## (AND WHAT TO DO SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER)

#	MYTH (NOT TRUE)	TRUTH	HAZARDS	STATS (U.S.)*	TO DO**
1	<b>MYTH:</b> One barrier of protection will guard against backyard drownings.	One barrier is not enough between a child and water.	 Drowning—death, brain damage	357 reported pool/spa drowning deaths per year (children under 15, 2020–2022); about 6,300 pool/spa submersion injuries treated each year (children under 15, 2022–2024). [1]	 Use multiple barriers between a child and water (door locks, gates, pool covers, alarms), even for shallow water, and always supervise.
2	<b>MYTH:</b> Only large bodies of water (i.e., in-ground pools) are drowning hazards.	Portable kiddie pools, buckets, fountains, and rainwater collected on pool covers can all pose drowning hazards for young children.	 Drowning—death, brain damage	Children can drown in as little as 2 inches of water. During warm-weather months, one child in the U.S. drowns every 5 days in a portable pool. [2]	 Do not overlook smaller water hazards. Empty buckets and baby pools after use, and watch for rainwater collecting in containers.
3	<b>MYTH:</b> Flotation devices are safety devices (i.e., water rings, wings, rafts).	Flotation devices do not replace adult supervision.	 Drowning—death, brain damage	Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death for children ages 1–4. [3]	 Diligent supervision is still required. Beware: rafts and floats can block the view of a child in trouble.
4	<b>MYTH:</b> You will hear a child drowning.	Drowning can be quick and silent.	 Drowning—death, brain damage	On average, drowning kills about 10 people every day in the U.S. [3]	 Never leave a child unattended near water. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer the phone.
5	<b>MYTH:</b> Bicycle helmets are only for the road and do not have to be worn in the driveway.	Bicycle falls and crashes often happen close to home, including driveways, sidewalks, and paths.	 Head/brain injuries—concussion, brain damage, death	9 out of 10 bicycle riders who die in crashes are not wearing helmets, and helmets can reduce the risk of brain injury by up to 88%. Without proper protection, a fall of as little as 2 feet can result in a traumatic brain injury. [4]	 Always wear a properly fitted helmet—every ride, even in a driveway or to a neighbor's home.
6	<b>MYTH:</b> E-scooters and e-bikes are safe for kids.	In 2026, the CPSC reported a rise in injuries from e-scooters and e-bikes in recent years.	 Collisions, falls, head injuries, fractures, fire risk	CPSC reports an estimated 380,000 e-scooter ED visits and 155,200 e-bike ED visits from 2017–2024, with 206 reported e-scooter deaths and 310 reported e-bike deaths over that period. [5]	 Know the history of injuries before deciding if e-scooters or e-bikes are appropriate for your child. If allowing older teens to ride after considering the risks, require helmets and understand age restrictions and local laws.
7	<b>MYTH:</b> Playgrounds are designed for children, therefore they must be safe.	Playgrounds may look kid-friendly, but hidden hazards—including improper surfacing, unsafe equipment, and hot surfaces—can cause serious injuries.	 Falls, strangulation, fractures, burns, other severe injuries	Public playground equipment is linked to an average of over 190,000 emergency-room-treated injuries each year. [6]	 No strings or cords: drawstrings and helmet straps can catch on equipment. Check for recalls, proper ground covering, hot surfaces, and age-appropriate equipment. Always supervise.
8	<b>MYTH:</b> Bounce houses are familiar party attractions, so they must be safe for kids.	Bounce houses can cause fractures, head injuries, falls, and wind-related tip-over or lift-off injuries.	 Falls, fractures, collisions, head injuries, or death	From 2000 to 2021, wind-related bounce house incidents resulted in 28 deaths and 479 injuries worldwide. [7]	 Awareness is key to prevention. Past tragedies involving wind-blown bounce houses are reminders to understand the risks before allowing children to play.
9	<b>MYTH:</b> Backyard recreational trampolines are popular, so they must be safe.	Catastrophic injuries can be associated with trampoline use.	 Back injuries, paralysis, fractures, head injuries, death	CPSC estimates more than 100,000 trampoline-related ED-treated injuries in many recent years; AAP discourages at-home trampoline use due to injury risk. [8]	 Popularity does not equal safety. Consider whether home trampoline use is worth the risk. AAP discourages the use of at-home backyard trampolines due to the risk of injury.
10	<b>MYTH:</b> Products designed for kids are safe.	Children's toys and recreational products can have hidden hazards.	 Injuries or death	An estimated 267,100 toy-related injuries were treated in U.S. emergency departments in 2024. CPSC received reports of 54 toy-related deaths among children 14 and younger from 2022–2024, including 6 in 2024. [9]	 Demand safer design and manufacture for children's products. Read instructions and warnings. Inspect products and check recalls.



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W.A.T.C.H. believes injuries and deaths associated with some warm-weather recreational activities and products can be significantly reduced with increased awareness. Visit [www.toysafety.org](http://www.toysafety.org), [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), and [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov) to research safety history and check recalls.

- \* Facts: Injury and death statistics are estimated per year in the U.S.A. unless otherwise specified.
- \*\* To Do: Recommendations are for guidance only. Read product instructions and safety guidelines, follow applicable laws, and decide whether a product or activity is appropriate for your child.

### SELECTED SOURCES

- [1] U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), *Pool or Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries and Reported Drownings, 2025 Report*.
- [2] CPSC In-Home Drowning Safety Information Center; Nationwide Children's Hospital, *Portable Pool Safety*.
- [3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Drowning Facts / Drowning Data*.
- [4] Nationwide Children's Hospital, *Bicycle Helmets*; UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, *Wheels and Helmet Safety*.
- [5] U.S. CPSC, *Micromobility Products-Related Deaths, Injuries, and Hazard Patterns: 2017–2024, April 2026*.
- [6] U.S. CPSC, *Public Playground Safety Handbook, Publication 325*; CPSC *Public Playground Safety Checklist*.
- [7] Knox, Gill, Williamsberg, Smith, Boggs, Black, and Skyepek, "Wind-Related Bounce House Incidents in Meteorological, Regulatory, and Outreach Contexts," *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, October 2022. URL: <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/bams/103/10/BAMS-D-21-0160.1.xml>
- [8] HealthyChildren.org / American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), *Are Trampolines Safe for Kids?*; AAP, *Trampoline Safety in Childhood and Adolescence*.
- [9] U.S. CPSC, *Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries Calendar Year 2024, April 2026*.