



Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children

would like to invite you

to celebrate **EMŠ week** in May with your community!

The statistics on child drownings are staggering:

- Drowning is the leading cause of accidental deaths for children ages 1-4
- Most drowning happen in residential pools
- Most infants under the age of one drown in a toilet, sink, bathtub, or bucket with as little as two inches of water
- For every child that drowns, four others are hospitalized for near drowning, and as many as three suffer permanent brain damage
- Nine out of 10 drowning deaths happen when a caregiver is supervising but not paying attention
- Complete four-sided isolation fencing could prevent 50%-90% of all child related drownings and near drownings

(Stew Leonard III Children's Charities, www.stewietheduck.com)

We will provide a Community Kit with resources for you to visit day care providers and elementary schools in your area to discuss water safety with children from the ages of 2-6. You will read a short book and with the help of the book character, Stewie the Duck, you can encourage children to be safe near the water. Then leave the book with the classrooms and school library. The story reinforces three main water safety rules: (1) take swimming lessons, (2) wear a life jacket and (3) always swim with supervision.

The Community Kit (one for each classroom you visit) includes:

- a rubber Stewie the Duck
- a copy of "Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim," by Kim and Stew Leonard
- examples of discussion questions
- a copy of the safe swimmer song for teachers or students that request it

Be a Children's Champion!!

Contact Bonnie Anderson at 850.245.4440 x 2686
for more information and Community Kits to use!