

Evie's Story

Our family decided to visit a friend's place. We often went to our friend's place as they had two little girls whom we were very close in age to our children. They had visitors so there were six adults and six kids there. It was Christmas Eve, and the kids were very excited. They had a trough which they converted into a wading pool, so my husband, Scott, got in with our youngest daughter, Evie Grace, who was 17 months old. He held her hands in the water, so she wouldn't fall over.



When they had had enough, Scott brought her inside to me, and I dried her and changed her into some dry clothes. When all the kids were out of the pool, we shut all the doors so Evie couldn't get outside. She was playing happily, bringing me blocks and showing me the toy box.

We decided to make the kids some sandwiches and Evie was standing there. They went and played and we could still see Evie standing there. About two minutes later, all the kids come into the lounge room, and Evie wasn't there. So I got up and checked in the rooms and she wasn't there. As I walked towards the lounge room, I noticed the door was open. One of the kids had very innocently opened the door. I asked Scott and the boys if Evie was with them, and they said no. I then went to the back door and walked outside, and thought that she could be anywhere. I called her name and walked towards the pool. Our friend was walking towards me and said he hadn't seen her.

One second later, I found her floating on the top of the water in the wading pool.

That image lives with me daily. It is an absolute nightmare. I knew from the second I grabbed her that she was gone.

Kylie (Evie's Mum)