

Swimming and Water Safety Skills Chart

Parent and Child Aquatics

Builds basic water safety skills for both parents and children, helping infants and young children ages 6 months to about 3 years become comfortable in the water so they are willing and ready to learn to swim. These basic skills include adjusting to the water environment, showing comfort while maintaining a front or back position in the water and demonstrating breath control, including blowing bubbles or voluntarily submerging under water.



LEVEL 1 Introduces basic skills to parents and children, including safety topics.

- Getting wet with toys and kicking
- Enter water by lifting in and walking in
- Out-of-water and in-water exploration
- Exit water by lifting out and walking out
- Blowing bubbles on the surface
- Blowing bubbles with mouth and nose submerged
- Underwater exploration

- Submerging mouth, nose and eyes
- Front and back floats and glides
- Roll from front to back and back to front
- Passing from instructor to parent
- Leg actions on front and back
- The importance of wearing a life jacket
- How to call for help and the importance of knowing first aid and CPR
- Basic water safety rules
- General water safety around the home
- Recreational water illnesses
- Sun safety

LEVEL 2 Builds on the skills introduced in Level 1, with participants improving these skills and learning more advanced skills.

- Enter water in a seated position and by rolling over from a seated position and sliding in
- Enter water by stepping in, jumping in and using a ladder or stairs
- Exploring the pool (in shallow water)
- Using the side of the pool and a ladder to exit
- Opening eyes and retrieving objects below the surface
- Opening eyes and retrieving submerged objects
- Bobbing
- Front and back floats and glides
- Front glide to the wall
- Roll from front to back and back to front
- Passing between adults
- Drafting with breathing
- Alternating or simultaneous leg actions on front and back
- Alternating or simultaneous arm actions on front and back
- · Combined arm and leg actions on front with breathing
- Combined arm and leg actions on back
- Wearing a life jacket in the water
- Reaching assists
- Basic water safety rules review
- Safety at the beach and at the waterpark
- Water toys and their limitations

Preschool Aquatics

Gives young children about ages 4 and 5 a positive, developmentally appropriate aquatic learning experience that emphasizes water safety, survival and foundational swimming concepts. Skills are age-appropriate, helping participants achieve success on a regular basis while in a class environment with their peers.



LEVEL 1 Helps participants feel comfortable in the water and enjoy the water safely.

- Enter and exit water using ladder, steps or side
- Blowing bubbles through mouth and nose
- Submerging mouth, nose and eyes
- Open eyes under water and retrieve submerged objects
- Front glide and recover to a vertical position
- Back float and recover to a vertical position
- Back glide
- Roll from front to back and back to front
- Treading with arm and hand actions
- Alternating and simultaneous leg actions on front and back
- Alternating and simultaneous arm actions on front and back
- Combined arm and leg actions on front and back
- Staying safe around aquatic environments
- Recognizing the lifeguards
- Don't just pack it, wear your jacket
- Recognizing an emergency
- How to call for help
- Too much sun is no fun

LEVEL 2 Builds on the skills learned in Level 1 and gives participants success with fundamental skills, such as floating and basic locomotion.

- Enter water by stepping in
- Exit water using ladder, steps or side
- Bobbing
- Open eyes under water and retrieve submerged objects
- Front and back floats and glides
- Recover from a front and back float or glide to a vertical position
- Roll from front to back and back to front
- Tread water using arm and leg actions
- Combined arm and leg actions on front and back
- Finning arm action on back
- Staying safe around aquatic environments
- Recognizing the lifeguards

- Don't just pack it, wear your jacket
- Recognizing an emergency
- How to call for help
- Too much sun is no fun
- **LEVEL 3** Builds on the skills in Level 2 and improves participants' coordination of simultaneous arm and leg actions and alternating arm and leg actions.
- Enter water by jumping in
- Fully submerging and holding breath
- Bobbing
- Front, jellyfish and tuck floats
- Back float and glide
- Recover from a front and back float or glide to a vertical position
- Change direction of travel while swimming on front or back
- Tread water using arm and leg actions
- Combined arm and leg actions on front and back
- Finning arm action on back
- Staying safe around aquatic environments
- Don't just pack it, wear your jacket
- Recognizing an emergency
- How to call for help
- Too much sun is no fun
- Look before you leap
- Think so you don't sink
- Reach or throw, don't go