



SWIMMING LESSONS

From 2009 to 2011, accidental drowning accounted for 91% of reported wandering-related deaths in children with autism. Swimming lessons are a crucial component to your child's safety.

REMEMBER:

- *Teaching your child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water.*
- *If you own a pool, fence your pool. Use gates that self-close and self-latch higher than your children's reach. Remove all toys or items of interest from the pool when not in use.*
- *Neighbors with pools should be made aware of these safety precautions and your child's tendency to wander.*
- *Final swimming lessons should be with clothes and shoes on.*

Step 1:

To find swimming lessons in your area, click [special needs swimming lessons](#) or visit [our web site](#) click Autism & Safety, choose "Swimming Instructions."

Step 2:

If you do not see swimming lessons in your area, Google **Special Needs Swimming Lessons + (Your City, State)**. You may have a non-YMCA facility, or specialty service in your area.

Step 3:

If you cannot find special-needs swimming lessons in your area, ask a local swimming facility, such as YMCA, to provide this service. The "wandering awareness letter" located within this toolkit can be used to demonstrate the need for lessons specific to children with special needs.

Step 4:

If you are still unable to find lessons, consider contacting this service: [Lessons With Julie](#)

NOTE: 68% OF DROWNING DEATHS HAPPENED IN A NEARBY POND, CREEK, LAKE OR RIVER. LIFE VESTS ON CAMPING AND BOATING TRIPS SHOULD ALWAYS BE WORN.