WATER SAFETY FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Information and Resources

The Challenges

- **Children with ASD** are 160 times more likely to drown than other children.

- In 2009, 2010, and 2011, **accidental drowning accounted for 91%** total U.S. deaths reported in children with an ASD ages 14 and younger due to wandering/elopement.

- **32% of parents reported a “close call”** with a possible drowning.

*Statistics from The National Autism Association

Water Safety Guide

This online Water Safety Guide provides important information including social stories and visual safety stickers to teach about water-related safety.


Think About

- Showing your child videos of children learning to swim,
- A tour in and around the swimming pool/facility,
- Specific transitional/assistive objects to be used in the water.
**RESOURCES**

- **YMCA Locations That Offer Special Needs Swimming Instruction**

- **Summer 2022 Adaptive Swim Program with Easter Seals Massachusetts**
  Contact (508) 751-6417 or PRemy@eastersealsma.org to register
  Location: Worcester, MA

- **Adaptive Swim Program at Worcester Fitness Swim Academy**
  Contact (508) 852-8209 or swimacademy@worcesterfitness.com
  Location: Worcester, MA

- **Swim Angelfish: Adaptive Swim**
  [https://swimangelfish.com/swim-lessons/](https://swimangelfish.com/swim-lessons/)
  MA/NH: (203) 545-0024 x 2 or CT/NY: (203) 545-0024 x 1

- **Adapted Aquatics with JCC Greater Boston**
  [https://www.bostonjcc.org/adapted-aquatics](https://www.bostonjcc.org/adapted-aquatics)
  Contact (617) 558-6469 or adaptedswim@jccgb.org
  Location: Newton, MA

- **Special Needs Swim Events in MA**

The Lurie Center does not endorse any single resource and encourages you to explore all the information contained in this resource.