

STAGES OF SWIMMING SKILLS & BENCHMARKS



Infant & Toddler / Preschool Skill Continuum

This continuum outlines the skills taught at each stage for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children. Though school-age children, teens, and adults also learn the skills listed in stages 1–4, they achieve distinct milestones compared to preschool-age children. As a result, their skills are presented in a separate skill continuum.

	A Water Discovery	B Water Exploration	1 Water Acclimation	2 Water Movement	3 Water Stamina	4 Stroke Introduction
Breath control	Blow bubbles on surface, assisted	Blow bubbles mouth & nose submerged, assisted	Submerge bob independently	Submerge look at object on bottom	Submerge retrieve object in chest-deep water	
Swim on front	Front tow chin in water, assisted Front float chin in water, assisted	Front tow blow bubbles, assisted Front float blow bubbles, assisted	Front glide assisted, to wall, 5 ft. Front float assisted, 10 secs., recover independently	Front glide 5 ft. Front float 10 secs.	Swim on front 10 yd.	Front crawl rotary breathing, 15 yd. Breaststroke kick, 15 yd. Butterfly kick, 15 yd.
Swim on back	Back float assisted, head on shoulder Back tow assisted, head on shoulder	Back float assisted, head on chest Back tow assisted, head on chest	Back float assisted, 10 secs., recover independently Back glide assisted, at wall, 5 ft.	Back float 10 secs. Back glide 5 ft.	Swim on back 10 yd.	Back crawl 15 yd.
Water safety	Roll assisted, back to front & front to back Wall grab assisted	Roll assisted, back to front & front to back Monkey crawl assisted, on edge, 5 ft.	Water exit independently Roll assisted, back to front & front to back	Water exit independently Roll back to front & front to back Tread water 10 secs., near wall, & exit	Water exit independently Roll back to front & front to back Tread water 30 secs. & exit	Dive sitting Resting stroke elementary backstroke, 15 yd. Tread water scissor & whip kick, 1 min.
Benchmark	Water exit parent & child together Water entry parent & child together	Water exit assisted Water entry assisted	Jump, push, turn, grab assisted Swim, float, swim assisted, 10 ft.	Jump, push, turn, grab Swim, float, swim 5 yd.	Jump, swim, turn, swim, grab 10 yd. Swim, float, swim 15 yd.	Endurance any stroke or combination of strokes, 25 yd.