

STAGES OF SWIMMING SKILLS & BENCHMARKS



School-Age / Teen & Adult Skill Continuum

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

	1 Water Acclimation	2 Water Movement	3 Water Stamina	4 Stroke Introduction	5 Stroke Development	6 Stroke Mechanics
Breath control	Submerge bob independently	Submerge look at object on bottom	Submerge retrieve object in chest-deep water			
Swim on front	Front glide assisted, to wall, 5 ft. Front float assisted, 10 secs., recover independently	Front glide 10 ft. Front float 20 secs.	Swim on front 15 yd.	Front crawl rotary breathing, 15 yd. Breaststroke kick, 15 yd. Butterfly kick, 15 yd.	Front crawl bent-arm recovery, 25 yd. Breaststroke 25 yd. Butterfly simultaneous arm action & kick, 15 yd.	Front crawl flip turn, 50 yd. Breaststroke open turn, 50 yd. Butterfly 25 yd.
Swim on back	Back float assisted, 10 secs., recover independently Back glide assisted, at wall, 5 ft.	Back float 20 secs. Back glide 10 ft.	Swim on back 15 yd.	Back crawl 15 yd.	Back crawl pull, 25 yd.	Back crawl pull & flip turn, 50 yd.
Water safety	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 1 min. & exit	Dive sitting Resting stroke elementary backstroke, 15 yd. Tread water scissor & whip kick, 1 min.	Dive kneeling Resting stroke sidestroke, 25 yd. Tread water scissor & whip kick, 2 mins.	Dive standing Resting stroke elementary backstroke or sidestroke, 50 yd. Tread water retrieve object off bottom, tread 1 min.
Benchmark	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 25 yd.	Endurance any stroke or combination of strokes, 25 yd.	Endurance any stroke or combination of strokes, 50 yd.	Endurance any stroke or combination of strokes, 150 yd.

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