

12 Things Parents of Children with Autism Need to Know About Drowning Prevention

1. Kids with autism are **DRAWN** to water. They love the way it shimmers, bubbles, and feels on the skin. That, paired with a lack of danger awareness, can easily lead to a lethal combination.

2. The drowning rate in those with ASD is 160 times greater than those who are typically developing. 48% wander from parents and safe adults. 74% of drowning is a result of wandering.

3. Never leave a child unattended, no matter how much you think they won't jump into the water on their own or seek out a neighbor's pool.

4. Be sure that your child gets swimming lessons. This is of utmost importance. Don't assume that they cannot learn to swim. Many kids with autism are incredible swimmers, after they are taught.

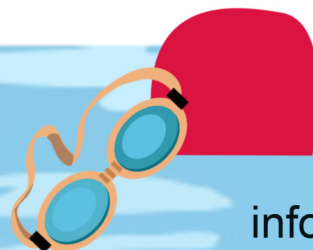


5. When using flotation devices use **CAUTION**. If children get accustomed to having one on, they may always think they will float.

6. People with autism often have poor generalization skills. They may exhibit swimming skills in one pool, but not in another. Have your child spend time in different swimming environments to be certain that they have enough skills to stay alive in the water.



Autism Society
Florida



autismfl.org
info@autismfl.org
407.207.3388