

PARENT CHECKLIST

WINTER & ICE SAFETY

- Verify Ice Thickness:** Never let children play on ice unless an adult has confirmed it is at least four inches thick of clear, blue ice.
- Double for Snow-Ice:** If the ice is white or opaque, it is only half as strong; it must be at least eight inches thick to be considered safe for walking.
- Dress in Layers:** Ensure children wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one heavy layer.
- Watch for Wind Chill:** Be aware that younger children are at higher risk for frostbite even when temperatures are above freezing. Districts typically suspend outdoor PE or recess when wind chills fall below 20°F.
- Identify "Bubblers":** Warn children to stay away from docks where "bubblers" (de-icers) are used, as they create open water or dangerously thin ice even in sub-zero weather.

WATER SAFETY & DROWNING PREVENTION

- Layers of Protection:** Ensure home pools have four-sided fencing at least 4 feet high with self-closing, self-latching gates.
- U.S. Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs):** Check that life jackets are appropriate for the child's weight and are in good condition. "Water wings" are not a substitute for a life jacket.
- Water Competency:** Enroll children in age-appropriate swimming lessons that result in a completion certificate, as required for disclosure under the new law.
- Active Supervision:** Designate a "Water Watcher" who is not distracted by a phone or book while children are near any body of water.
- Emergency Knowledge:** Ensure all caregivers know how to call 911 and are encouraged to take a CPR certification course.

LOCAL RESOURCES

SWIMMING & WATER SAFETY

The following organizations in the Madison and Oneida County region provide swimming instruction and often offer financial assistance or sliding-scale fees to ensure no child is denied services based on inability to pay.

1. YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley

The YMCA offers the "Changing Lives Financial Assistance Program" to make programs more affordable for local youth.

- **Oneida Branch:** 701 Seneca Street, Oneida, NY. Phone: (315) 363-7788.
- **Rome Branch:** 301 W. Bloomfield Street, Rome, NY. Phone: (315) 336-3500.
- **Financial Aid:** Assistance is granted based on available resources and a sliding fee scale that considers household income and dependents.

2. YMCA of Central New York

- **Northwest Family Branch & East Area Family Branch:** Provide regular swim assessments for proper lesson placement.
- **Financial Assistance:** Available for group swim lessons through donor support; families should contact their local branch for details.

3. Community & Collegiate Programs

- **Jewish Community Center (JCC) Utica:** Offers youth groups and recreational activities. Phone: (315) 733-2343.
- **Hamilton College (Clinton, NY):** Hosts summer swimming camps for boys and girls. Phone: (315) 859-4271.
- **Oneida County Youth Bureau:** Works with various agencies to provide access to programs for youth under 21. Phone: (315) 798-5027.

LOCAL WATER

SAFETY DISCLOSURE

Oriskany Central School District Water Safety & Drowning Prevention

In accordance with New York State Education Law § 926, the Oriskany Central School District provides the following information to help families access life-saving water safety instruction.

Local Low-Cost/No-Cost Swimming Options:

- **Facility Name:** YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley
- **Address:** 301 W. Bloomfield St, Rome, NY 13440
- **Assistance Offered:** *Financial Assistance Available: Changing Lives Financial Assistance www.ymcatrivalley.org/membership/financial-assistance*
- **Contact:** (315) 336-3500 www.ymcatrivalley.org

How to Enroll in Lessons:

To find a swimming program that fits your family's needs, we recommend:

- *Contacting the **YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley** or **YMCA of Central New York** to inquire about their financial aid applications.*
- *Checking the **Oneida County Youth Bureau** or **Madison County Health Department** for seasonal youth program announcements.*
- *Consulting the **New York State Department of Health** drowning prevention resources for safe swimming tips.*