### Parent and Child Aquatics

Builds basic water safety skills for both parents and children, helping infants and young children ages 6 months to about 3 years become comfortable in the water so they are willing and ready to learn to swim. These basic skills include adjusting to the water environment, showing comfort while maintaining a front or back position in the water and demonstrating breath control, including blowing bubbles or voluntarily submerging under water.

**LEVEL 1**  
*Introduces basic skills to parents and children, including safety topics.*

- Getting wet with toys and kicking  
- Enter water by lifting in and walking in  
- Out-of-water and in-water exploration  
- Blowing bubbles on the surface  
- Blowing bubbles with mouth and nose submerged  
- Underwater exploration  
- Submerging mouth, nose and eyes  
- Front and back floats and glides  
- Roll from front to back and back to front  
- Passing from instructor to parent  
- Leg actions on front and back  
- The importance of wearing a life jacket  
- How to call for help and the importance of knowing first aid and CPR  
- Basic water safety rules  
- General water safety around the home  
- Recreational water illnesses  
- Sun safety  

**LEVEL 2**  
*Builds on the skills introduced in Level 1, with participants improving these skills and learning more advanced skills.*

- Enter water in a seated position and by rolling over from a seated position and sliding in  
- Enter water by stepping in, jumping in and using a ladder or stairs  
- Exploring the pool (in shallow water)  
- Using the side of the pool and a ladder to exit  
- Opening eyes and retrieving objects below the surface  
- Opening eyes and retrieving submerged objects  
- Bobbing  
- Front and back floats and glides  
- Front glide to the wall  
- Roll from front to back and back to front  
- Passing between adults  
- Drafting with breathing  
- Alternating or simultaneous leg actions on front and back  
- Alternating or simultaneous arm actions on front and back  
- Combined arm and leg actions on front with breathing  
- Combined arm and leg actions on back  
- Wearing a life jacket in the water  
- Reaching assists  
- Basic water safety rules review  
- Safety at the beach and at the waterpark  
- Water toys and their limitations

### Preschool Aquatics

Gives young children about ages 4 and 5 a positive, developmentally appropriate aquatic learning experience that emphasizes water safety, survival and foundational swimming concepts. Skills are age-appropriate, helping participants achieve success on a regular basis while in a class environment with their peers.

**LEVEL 1**  
*Helps participants feel comfortable in the water and enjoy the water safely.*

- Enter and exit water using ladder, steps or side  
- Blowing bubbles through mouth and nose  
- Submerging mouth, nose and eyes  
- Open eyes underwater and retrieve submerged objects  
- Front glide and recover to a vertical position  
- Back float and recover to a vertical position  
- Back glide  
- Roll from front to back and back to front  
- Treading with arm and hand actions  
- Combined arm and leg actions on front and back  
- Alternating or simultaneous arm actions on front and back  
- Combined arm and leg actions on front and back  
- Finning arm action on back  
- Staying safe around aquatic environments  
- Recognizing the lifeguards  
- Don’t just pack it, wear your jacket  
- Recognizing an emergency  
- How to call for help  
- Too much sun is no fun

**LEVEL 2**  
*Builds on the skills learned in Level 1 and gives participants success with fundamental skills, such as floating and basic locomotion.*

- Enter water by stepping in  
- Exit water using ladder, steps or side  
- Bobbing  
- Open eyes underwater and retrieve submerged objects  
- Front and back floats and glides  
- Recover from a front and back float or glide to a vertical position  
- Roll from front to back and back to front  
- Tread water using arm and leg actions  
- Combined arm and leg actions on front and back  
- Finning arm action on back  
- Staying safe around aquatic environments  
- Recognizing the lifeguards  
- Don’t just pack it, wear your jacket  
- Recognizing an emergency  
- How to call for help  
- Too much sun is no fun

**LEVEL 3**  
*Builds on the skills in Level 2 and improves participants’ coordination of simultaneous arm and leg actions and alternating arm and leg actions.*

- Enter water by jumping in  
- Fully submerging and holding breath  
- Bobbing  
- Front, jellyfish and tuck floats  
- Back float and glide  
- Recover from a front and back float or glide to a vertical position  
- Change direction of travel while swimming on front or back  
- Tread water using arm and leg actions  
- Combined arm and leg actions on front and back  
- Finning arm action on back  
- Staying safe around aquatic environments  
- Don’t just pack it, wear your jacket  
- Recognizing an emergency  
- How to call for help  
- Too much sun is no fun  
- Look before you leap  
- Think so you don’t sink  
- Reach or throw, don’t go
The American Red Cross offers a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate swimming and water safety program that teaches you, your child or other family members how to swim skillfully and safely, and think and act safely in, on and around the water. The prerequisite for each level is the successful demonstration of skills from the preceding level, except for Level 1, which has no prerequisites.