

Float Test Facts

Due to the high incidence of child drownings in Texas and the many bodies of water located here, we feel that it is extremely important to ensure the water safety of all children that enter our program. Over the course of many years we have integrated the back float into our teaching curriculum. We begin teaching this skill to infants in Parent/Child classes and continue to strengthen and build upon it as children advance to the Goldfish class. It is in the Goldfish class that the well-known float test is done. The following is a list of facts regarding the float test. It is our desire that these tidbits of information will help to clarify some misconceptions associated with the test!

- The water test is an **OPTIONAL** test that is designed to facilitate the safety of a child if he/she were to fall into a body of water.
- The float test is **NOT** a requirement to advance to a *Dolphin* or *Swordfish* class.
- A child must earn a *Goldfish ribbon* by swimming the width of the pool independently in order to advance to a *Dolphin* or *Swordfish* class.
- The test is performed with children under the age of 5.
- Proper water test attire includes:
 - Shirt and shorts/pants or sundress (bathing suit may be worn underneath clothing)
 - Shoes (no flip flops or water shoes)
- The test must be done successfully in 3 consecutive classes.
- The child must either float for 5 minutes or reach the side of the pool independently.
- Parents are welcome to film/photograph the test(s), but please keep in mind that this may be a distraction to your child.
- Absolutely **NO** verbal or physical assistance is allowed from teacher OR parent(s).

Please direct any other questions you may have regarding the float test to the office staff and/or your child's instructor. The *Pat on the Back* form is the easiest way to communicate with the instructors and can be found in both the observation room and front office.

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is a lifesaving experience...year round!**