



Autism Society's Water Safety Initiative: HollyRod Foundation Collaboration

The Autism Society of America teamed up with HollyRod Foundation to develop a companion to *Charlie Makes a Splash*, a children's book describing the solace and empowerment aquatic environments bring to many individuals with Autism. Included in this pack are water safety checklists for caregivers and individuals with Autism. In addition, there are social narratives that include key water safety rules that correspond to the water environments described in *Charlie Makes a Splash*. The Autism Society of America is committed to supporting water safety and wandering prevention.

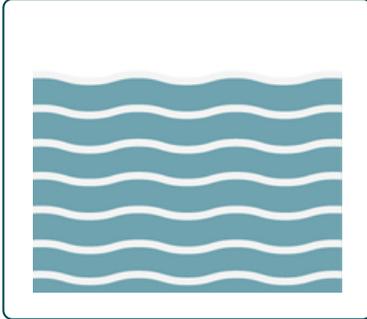
Autism and Water Safety

49% of individuals with Autism wander from a safe environment and 24% of those individuals experienced a close call with drowning. Additionally, a person with Autism is 160x more likely to drown than their neurotypical peer. The rattling statistics reinforce the undeniable need for water safety skills, preventative wandering strategies, and optimum safety around the aquatic environment.

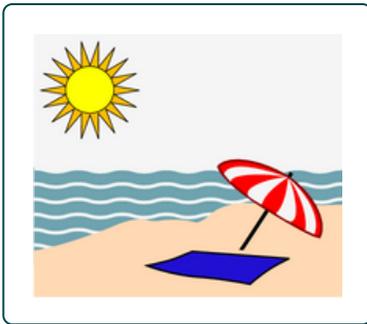
The Autism Society of America is leading a national effort to prevent water and wandering related deaths through proactive programming, public awareness, and public policy. Together, with community agencies, law enforcement, and members of the Autistic community, the Autism Society of America is identifying and developing best practices to improve the safety and lives of those living with Autism.



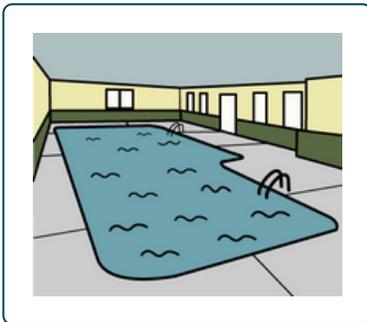
Staying Safe: Near Water



There is water everywhere.



**There is water at the beach,
in a lake, or in the ocean.**

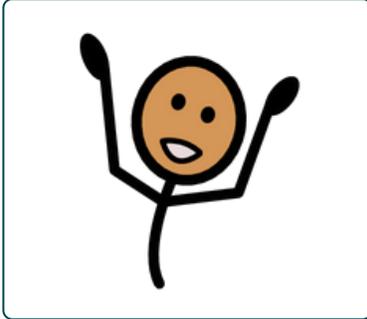


**There is water in a puddle,
on a dock, or in the pool.**



**There is water in the bathtub,
in a fish tank, or a big aquarium.**

Staying Safe: Near Water



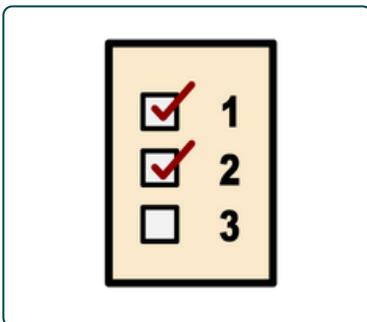
Being in the water can be fun.



But being near water can be dangerous if I don't follow the water safety rules.

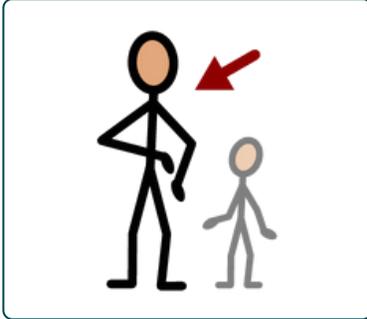


To stay safe and have fun in the water, I will learn the water safety rules.

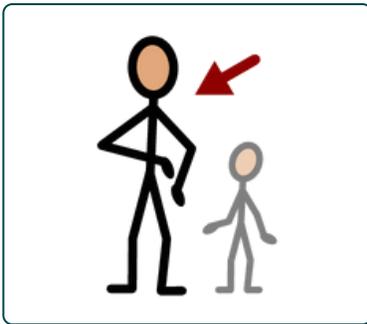


When I am in or near the water, these are the safety rules I will follow.

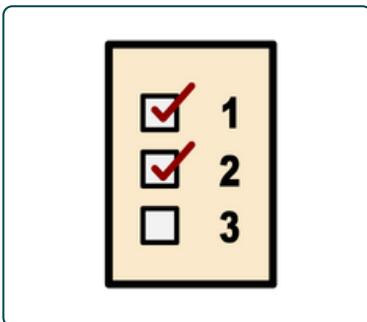
Staying Safe: Near Water



I will stay close to a helper when I am in or near the water.



A helper can be an adult like a parent, a teacher, or a caregiver.

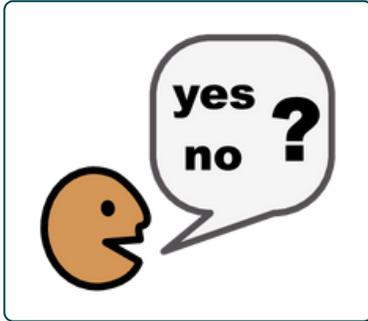


I will follow directions.

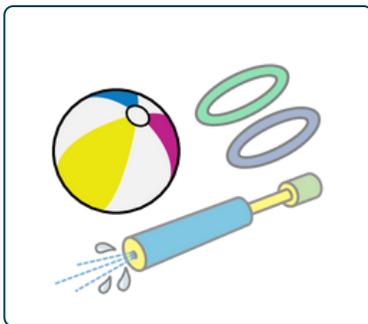


I will ask for help.

Staying Safe: Near Water



I will ask my helper before I go into the water.



I will ask for help if I want to get something that is in the water.

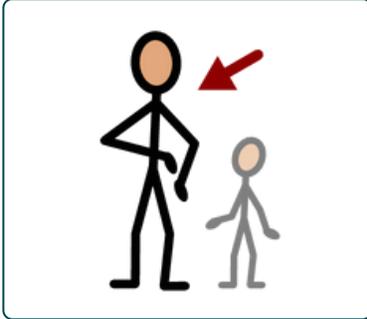


When I follow the safety rules, I can stay safe in and around the water.

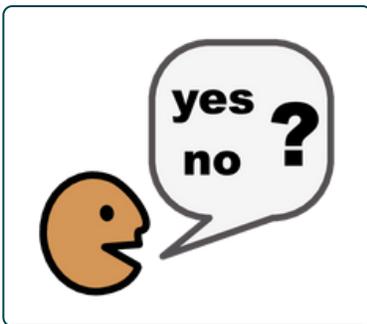


When I follow the safety rules, water can be fun and safe!

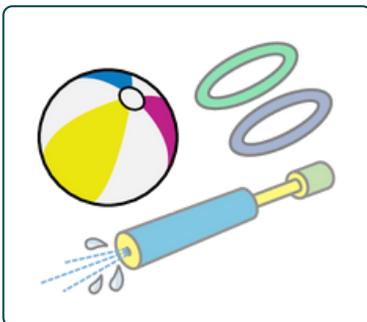
Staying Safe: At the Pool



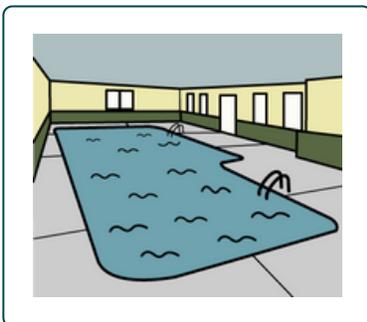
When I am at the pool I will stay close to my helper.



When I am at the pool I will ask my helper before I go in the water.

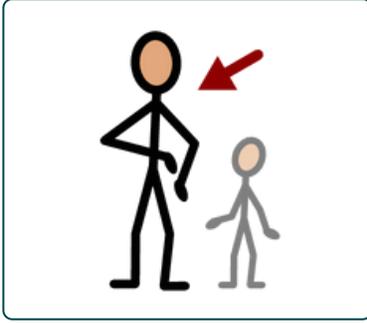


When I see a toy in the pool that I want, I will ask for help to get it.

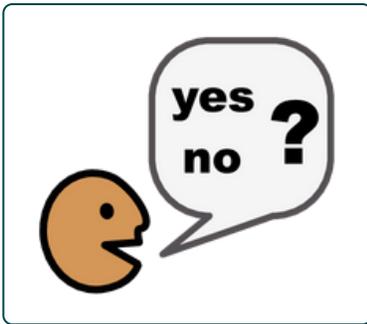


When I am at the pool I will follow the safety rules so that I can stay safe.

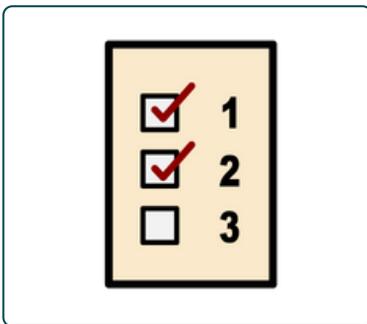
Staying Safe: At the Beach



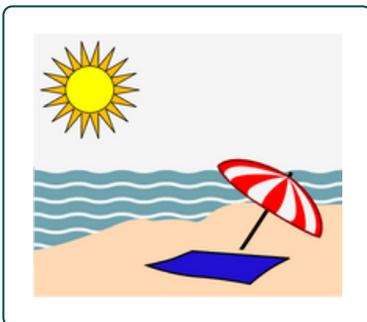
When I am at the beach I will stay close to my helper.



When I am at the beach I will ask my helper before I go into the water.

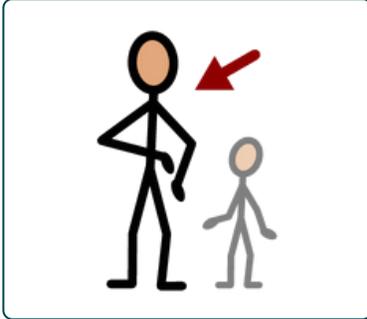


When I am at the beach I will follow directions so that I can stay safe.

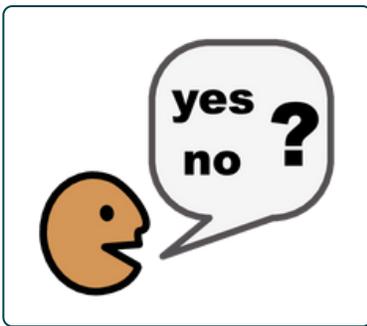


I am safe when I follow the safety rules at the beach.

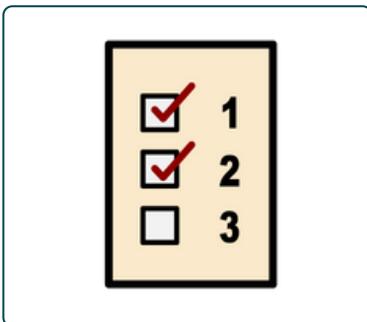
Staying Safe: At the Lake



When I am at the lake I will stay close to my helper.



When I am at the lake I will ask my helper before I go into the water.

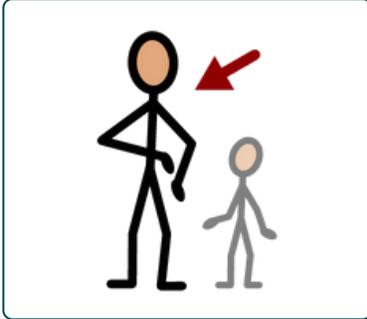


When I am at the lake I will follow directions so that I can stay safe.

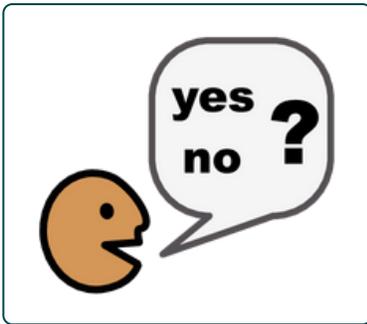


I am safe when I follow the safety rules at the lake.

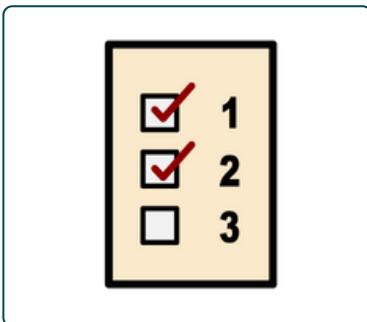
Staying Safe: On the Dock



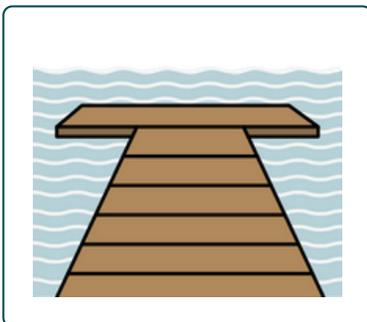
When I am on the dock I will stay close to my helper.



When I am on the dock I will ask my helper before going near or into the water.

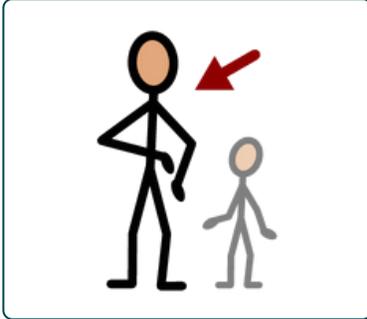


When I am on the dock I will follow directions so that I can stay safe.

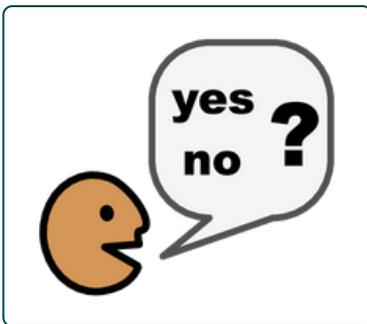


I am safe when I follow the safety rules on the dock.

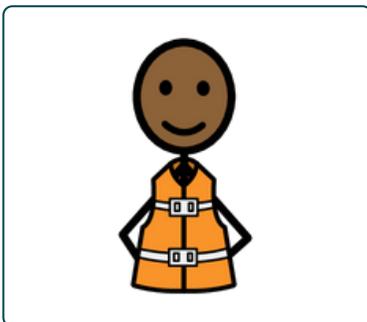
Staying Safe: On the Boat



When I am on the boat I will stay close to my helper.



When I am on the boat I will ask my helper before I go into the water.

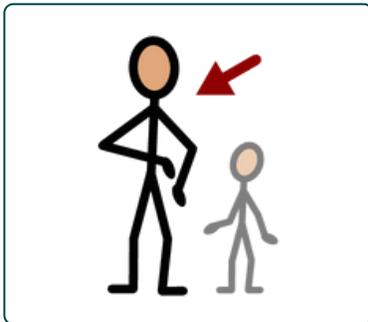


When I am on the boat I will wear a lifejacket.

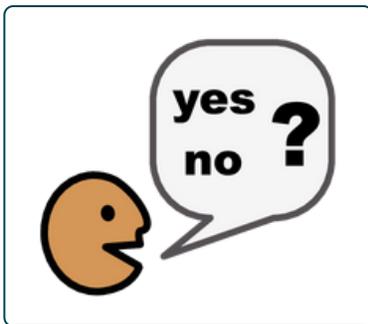


When I am on the boat I will follow the safety rules so that I can stay safe.

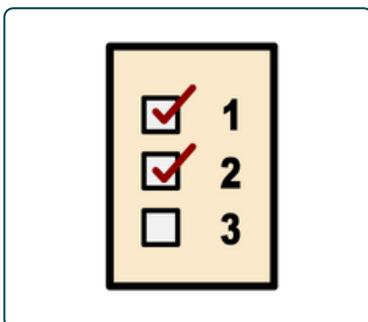
Staying Safe: In Puddles



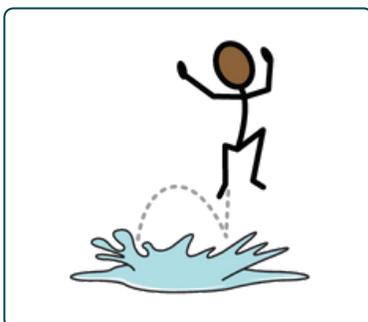
**When I want to jump in a puddle
I will stay close to my helper.**



**When I want to jump in a puddle
I will ask my helper before I do.**

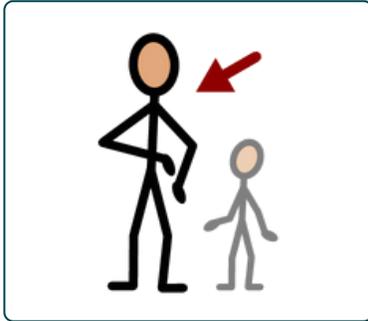


**When I want to jump in a puddle
I will follow directions so that I
can stay safe.**

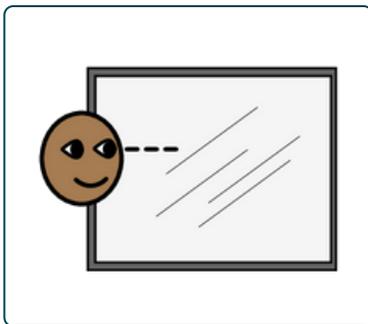


**I am safe when I follow the safety
rules when jumping in puddles.**

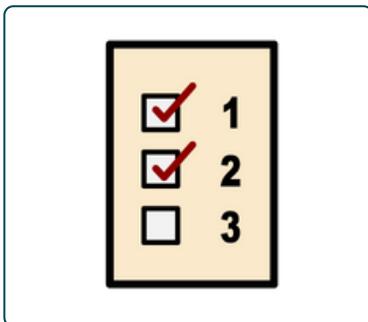
Staying Safe: At the Aquarium



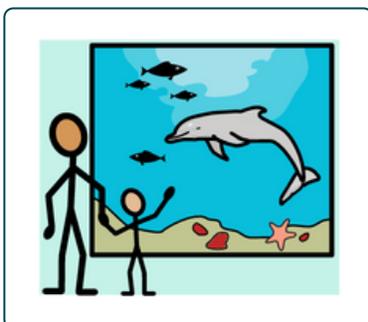
When I am at the aquarium I will stay close to my helper.



When I am at the aquarium I will keep my hands off the glass. I want the animals to feel safe in their home.



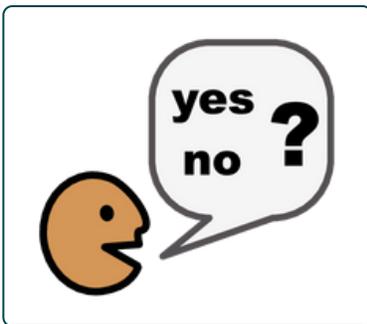
When I am at the aquarium I will follow directions so that I can stay safe.



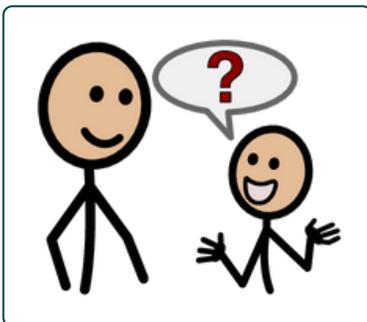
I am safe when I follow the safety rules at the aquarium.



When the water is on in the bathtub, shower, or the sink I will follow directions.



I will ask before I turn the water on in the bathtub, shower, or sink.

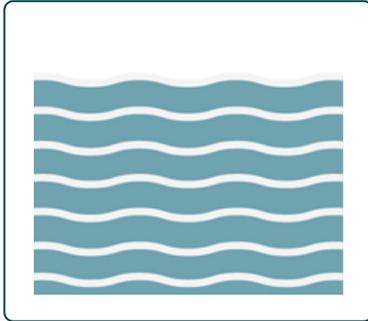


I will ask an adult before going into the bathtub or shower each time.

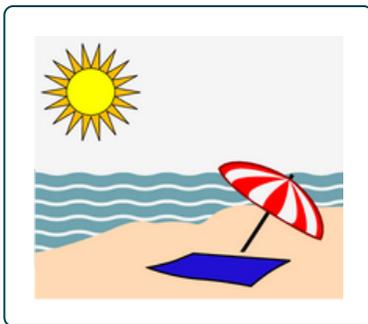


I am safe when I follow the rules when I use the water in the bathtub, shower, or sink.

Staying Safe: Water Safety



There is water everywhere.



Water can look different in different places like the beach, lake, ocean, in a puddle, on a dock, pool, bathtub, fish tank, or a big aquarium.



Being in the water can be fun, but it can be dangerous if I don't follow the safety rules.



When I am in or near water I will follow the safety rules so that I can stay safe and have fun.