

# 7 Tips to Help Draw the Line on Drowning



Children with autism are 160 times more likely to drown than their neurotypical peers, according to the Autism Society of Florida. That's why Connections Education Center of the Palm Beaches is working to bring awareness to this critical issue.

**Here are 7 tips for families and caregivers of children with autism:**

**1**

## **Take adaptive swim lessons.**

Children with autism often acquire swim skills differently than neurotypical kids. Enroll in an adaptive swim class to help your child learn best. Start today.

## **Always watch the water.**

When enjoying time around water, make sure someone is watching the water at all times. It's easy to get distracted, especially at parties and cookouts, so take shifts as the designated water-watcher to stay mentally fresh and focused.

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## **Use alarms and chimes.**

Install and activate alarms on every door in your house so you know when someone opens a door.

## **Install a pool fence.**

If you have a pool at home, install and always lock the pool fence.

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## **Remove toys from pools.**

After supervised playtime in the pool, remove all toys that may attract a child's attention and tempt a child to jump in to retrieve the toy.

## **Be aware of nearby water.**

Survey your area and be mindful of bodies of water near your home. Water often acts as a magnet for individuals with autism who may be drawn by reflections, sounds or animals.

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## **Act fast.**

If a child goes missing, check nearby water first. It only takes seconds for someone to slip underwater.

Help us Draw the Line on Drowning by joining our campaign at [www.connectedpb.com/drowning-prevention-autism](http://www.connectedpb.com/drowning-prevention-autism)