

.22 WATER SAFETY

- A. A provider may permit children in care to use only swimming facilities that:**
- (1) Are subject to State or local standards of health, sanitation, and safety; and**
 - (2) Meet those standards.**
- INTENT: A body of water may be used by children only if it is approved for swimming by the appropriate local or State government office.
- INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Swimming facility subject to, meets standards"
- COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: The only swimming facilities used by children are those that you have verified as being approved.
- ASSESSMENT METHOD: Review of approval documentation, if available. Otherwise, discussion with you to determine if and how verification of approval took place.
- B. Before a provider or substitute takes children swimming or wading, the provider or substitute shall have written approval from each child's parent, on a form approved or supplied by the Office.**
- INTENT: Swimming or wading involves potential safety risks, particularly for young children. You must obtain prior written permission from each child's parent before allowing the child to swim or wade.
- INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Written permission for wading/swimming"
- COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: If you use any swimming/wading activities, there is a "[Swimming/Wading Activity Permission](#)" slip, or equivalent written authorization, from each child's parent in the child's file
- ASSESSMENT METHOD: Review of child files.
- C. Children shall be supervised continuously in the water as follows:**
- (1) If the water does not exceed 4 feet in depth, the provider or substitute may supervise the children regardless of lifesaving training.**
 - (2) If the water exceeds 4 feet in depth, the provider or substitute shall ensure that an individual 16 years old or older who has completed lifesaving certification approved by the Office is present and on duty at all times while children are in the water. A provider or substitute with the requisite certification may fulfill this requirement.**
 - (3) When the water is over any child's chest and the child cannot swim, an additional adult shall be present in the water to supervise the nonswimming child or children. This means that at least two adults shall be present.**
 - (4) If only one child is present, only one adult is required to supervise that child. However, if the water exceeds 4 feet in depth, that adult shall have completed approved lifesaving training.**
 - (5) Even when a certified lifeguard is present, the provider or substitute shall retain responsibility for appropriate supervision of children during a swimming or wading activity.**
- INTENT: Swimming is a potentially dangerous activity, especially for small children. Therefore, you must ensure that each child is appropriately supervised and constantly monitored whenever the child is in the water. You are responsible for each child's safety at all times while the child is in care.
- INSPECTION REPORT ITEMS: "Continuous supervision"
"Life saving training"
- COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:
- Each child is supervised as required and monitored constantly by you or another adult present with you for swimming activities.
 - If water exceeds 4 ft. in depth, a person with current, approved lifesaving certification is present.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observation to determine if and how each child is being monitored and supervised. Otherwise, discussion with you to determine how the children are monitored and supervised while in the water.

Notes:

- If you have a pool, you must ensure that it meets all applicable State or local health department requirements.
- You must have appropriate procedures for supervision of the children during water play, including how to accommodate children who are napping, toileting, or not engaged in water play.
- It is strongly recommended that:
 - Non-swimming children be allowed in water only if it is below their knees, and
 - One-on-one supervision be given to each child younger than 2 years during a water activity.

D. The provider or substitute may not permit a child in care to use a pool, such as a fill and drain molded plastic or inflatable pool, which does not have an operable circulation system approved by the local health department.

INTENT: Stagnant (uncirculated) pool water is a potential health hazard because it contaminates quickly. Therefore, children may only use pools that have an approved and working circulation system.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Use of approved pool only "

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:

- The pool has an approved, functioning circulation system.
- Pool water does not appear to be contaminated.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: If a pool is used by the children:

- Observation to determine if it has an operable circulation system; and
- Review of documentation showing approval of the circulation system by the local health department.