

Learn-to-Swim Programs for NYS Children's Camps

Fact Sheet – February 2009

(Go to www.health.state.ny.us to view most current certification list)

Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code allows non-swimmers to enter water that is chest deep or greater when participating in a learn-to-swim program that has been determined to use a supervision protocol which protects campers from injury or drowning. The following programs have been determined to be acceptable:

Acceptable Programs*
American Red Cross (ARC)
Boy Scouts of America
YMCA

- Instructors must possess current certification as a progressive swimming instructor (PSI) in the program being utilized to teach swimming.
- Qualified lifeguards must supervise learn-to-swim programs. A PSI may not perform lifeguard duties unless currently certified as a qualified lifeguard (see "Aquatic Certification" fact sheet) and he/she is not concurrently performing teaching duties.
- A Buddy System and Board System (or equivalent) of supervising and checking bathers must be implemented during all swimming activities including learn-to-swim programs.

*Children's camps may utilize learn-to-swim programs that are not listed above to teach swimming at camp; however, non-swimmers must be restricted to water that is less than chest deep at all times.