



Longfellow's WHALE Tales

Water Habits Are Learned Early

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

In today's Longfellow's WHALE Tales lesson, your child focused on the unique experiences one has when swimming in a pool or at a waterpark. This included what is the same and what is different in a public setting versus at a private home pool or a facility without lifeguards.

We also talked about pool drain safety and the importance of staying away from drains and other openings that can cause suction and entrap a child underwater. If you have a pool with a drain at your home or somewhere you visit, it's crucial to ensure there are anti-entrapment drain covers and safety release systems installed to protect against danger. Learn more about this risk and how to help keep swimming safe and fun at thezacfoundation.org.

Finally, we spent part of today's lesson talking about safety when it comes to other sources of water around the home, yard and community that create a potential drowning danger even if they are not meant for swimming.

Did you know? After pools, bathtubs are the second leading location where young children drown. Toilets, buckets, wells, cisterns, septic tanks, and decorative ponds and fountains also pose potential drowning dangers.

In fact, anywhere there is water, there is a risk of drowning, especially for children. All it takes is as little as an inch of water! You can help lower the risk by being proactive about water safety and ensuring every member of your household learns to swim.

To brush up on any of these topics yourself, visit these resources from the American Red Cross:

- For a boatload of great information about how to make water safety a priority at home, and anywhere your family is in, on or around the water, visit redcross.org/watersafety. Learn about using layers of protection to help prevent drowning and how to help in an emergency if needed.
- To take our FREE online course, Water Safety for Parents and Caregivers, visit redcross.org/takeaclass.

You can also download the FREE American Red Cross Swim app for access to more engaging videos and activities for kids and families. Download it from the App Store or Google Play or text "SWIM" to 90999.

We hope you'll visit!