

# Dear Parents

Swimming is the second most popular sport among children in Switzerland. It is not only great fun, but also promotes fitness.

Many children have yet to learn the skills needed to behave safely in and around the water. They also do not always recognise dangers. This is why the Water Safety Check (WSC) is practised and tested during swimming lessons.

The WSC represents the baseline in water safety. It stands for essential water competency. Passing the WSC confirms that a child has acquired the self-rescue ability to get to the water's edge or shoreline after a fall into the water. Although it considerably increases the ability to self-rescue, it is not a guarantee.

These three tips can help you meet your responsibility. Thank you for helping us achieve our goal of preventing accidents.

BFU, Swiss Council for Accident Prevention

## Three tips

Even if they have completed the WSC, children should never go bathing or swimming alone and unattended.

Always keep a close eye on children in and around the water; keep small children within arm's reach.

Use buoyancy aids in open water (e.g. a safety buoy) and never let children swim alone.

### More about the WSC

We also recommend watching the video to find out what the WSC is, why it is important and how to pass it.



Basics for water safety  
[bfu.ch/wsc](https://bfu.ch/wsc)



It's a worthwhile watch!

Find more information overleaf.

# This is what happens during the Water Safety Check WSC

The three exercises are performed consecutively and without a break. Children receive a passport after successfully completing the WSC.

- Roll/drop from the poolside into deep water
- Stay above the water for 1 minute
- Swim 50 metres before getting out

## Passed WSC

Children receive the WSC passport. It confirms that your child has successfully completed the Water Safety Check and is competent enough to be allowed to enter deep water under supervision.

## Failed WSC

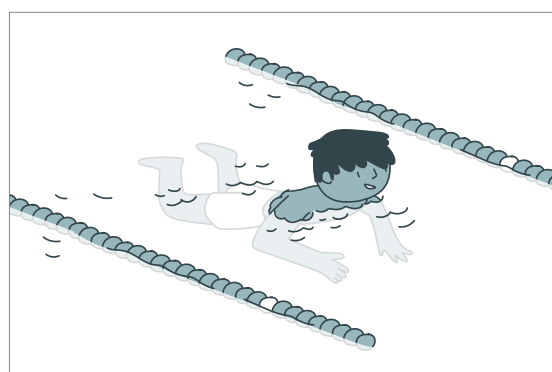
If your child doesn't pass, ask where your child can practise and retake the WSC. Swimming classes that offer WSC courses can be found at [swimsports.ch](http://swimsports.ch) and [swiss-aquatics.ch](http://swiss-aquatics.ch).



Roll/drop from the poolside into deep water



Stay above the water for 1 minute



Swim 50 metres before getting out