

Life Jackets

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents to use U.S. Coast Guard approved vest-style life jackets for small children and non-swimmers when they are near or in the water.

When selecting a life jacket for your child, check the label to verify that it is appropriate for your child's current weight. Never buy a size larger than you need hoping your child will "grow into it." Appropriate fit is important to keep the child's head above water.



Check the fit

An appropriately fitting life jacket should fit snug yet allow you to move around. Check fit by picking up the shoulders of the life jacket to see if the child's chin or ears slip through. Any slipping would require a smaller life jacket.



Never alter a life jacket

Throw it away if it tears or your child has outgrown it.



Toys

Toys such as arm "floaties," life rings, pool noodles, and puddle jumpers do not increase a child's safety in and near the water.



U.S. Coast Guard approved

Choose a vest-style life jacket with a US Coast Guard approved label printed inside of the life jacket. Always use all buckles and straps every time.



Supervision

Never expect any safety item to replace constant, capable supervision.



Phoenix Children's

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