

Charles River Aquatics prides itself on providing a safe, friendly environment where all children can learn to swim while having fun in and out of the water.

We employ more staff than the 1:5 ratio (one instructor to five children) required by the Board of Health during Summer Camp. This ensures the safety of the children, gives added attention to those children who need it, and allows us to make sure all children are having a great experience.

However, for the highly sensitive child, who can become overly stimulated in an environment with a lot of: noise, laughter, splashing and directives by staff, the stimuli can be overpowering. In this case, the child may exhibit inappropriate behavior. This will cause a staff member to remove the child to a quieter environment, so the child can recover his or her composure. This time away from the rest of the swimmers by the staff member can be managed for short periods. Yet if we have more than one child needing the complete attention of a staff member for any length of time, this can lead to an unsafe environment for the rest of the children and staff as well. (There are always other issues during the day, from bloody noses to small bruises. These children are also in need of special attention. Should one staff member be busy with the highly sensitive child, who will be available to monitor bathroom breaks AND medical problems?)

Charles River Aquatics has instituted a point system, which we deem to be fair to every child enrolled. In this way, if a highly sensitive child is unable to adjust to the stimuli during the day and reaches his/her limit, we will follow the procedures set forth in the following protocol.

One Point for Each Infraction

- After a warning and two time outs, still refuses to obey directions.
- Goes off the table in the pool 'after being warned twice' not to do this (dangerous behavior for the child).

Two Points for Each Infraction

- Aggressive behavior toward another child (pushes, shoves, raises his/her voice to frighten or intimidate).
- Raises his/her voice to a staff member.
- Exhibits destructive behavior by breaking equipment on purpose.

Three Points for Each Infraction

- Throws things (such as toys, food) at another child or staff member. Behavior meant to hurt someone.
- Runs away or tries to hide from staff members.

- Refuses to return to the group after running away or hiding and must be carried back.

Eight Points for Very Serious Infractions

- Hits/hurts another child with the intention of causing serious harm (the other child completely innocent).
- Hits/hurts a staff member with the intention of causing serious harm.

If a child receives six points in any given day, he/she will be sent home. The parent must provide transportation within the hour. Failure to do so will cause the child to be excluded from the program for the following day.

If the child receives eight points in any given day, he/she will no longer be allowed to participate at Charles River Aquatics. There will be no refunds for the remainder of the week. Any siblings enrolled will NOT receive a refund.

Charles River Aquatics prides itself on meeting the needs of all the children. We hope that parents understand this. Anyone with questions or concerns, please call Marilyn at 617-777-3556.