SAY NO TO FLOATIES!

FLOATIES-PUDDLE JUMPERS, WATER WINGS, RING FLOATIES, NECK RINGS AND EVEN LIFE JACKETS WHEN USED INCORRECTLY. WE BELIEVE ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON:

THEY CAN EACH CONTRIBUTE TO CHILD DROWNINGS.

WE BELIEVE THIS IS HOW:

ALL OF THEM AUTOMATICALLY PUT CHILDREN IN A VERTICAL POSITION IN THE WATER AND THAT IS THE DROWNING POSITION. IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE POSITION TO THE LIFE-SAVING, HORIZONTAL POSITION THAT LEARNING TO FLOAT ON THEIR BACKS AND THEN TO SWIM TEACHES THEM. PUDDLE JUMPERS TEACH CHILDREN'S MUSCLES TO REMEMBER THAT DROWNING POSITION, SO THAT WHEN THEY GET INTO WATER, THEIR BODIES WILL AUTOMATICALLY GET INTO THAT POSITION, WHETHER THEY HAVE THE DEVICE ON OR NOT. THIS MAKES DROWNING FASTER AND MORE LIKELY!

ALL OF THESE DEVICES CREATE A FALSE SENSE OF SAFETY FOR THE CHILD WHEN USED IN THE POOL, DURING SWIM OR PLAY TIMES. THE CHILD THINKS THEY CAN SWIM AS THEY HAVE BUILT CONFIDENCE IN THE WATER (BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN WEARING THE DEVICE EVERY SINGLE TIME THEY ARE IN THE WATER).

ALL OF THESE DEVICES PREVENT KIDS FROM LEARNING TO REACH THEIR ARMS OUT IN FRONT OF THEM FOR ANY SWIMMING STROKE AND FROM PUTTING THEIR HEADS IN THE WATER TO HELP THEM GET INTO A HORIZONTAL (SWIMMING AND BREATHING POSITION) IN THE WATER.

THEY TEACH CHILDREN TO BICYCLE THEIR ARMS AND LEGS, IN ORDER TO PROPEL THROUGH THE WATER. THIS IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS TREADING WATER, BUT IT EXPENDS HUGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY AND KIDS CANNOT KEEP IT UP FOR LONG ENOUGH TO GET RESCUED OR SAVE THEMSELVES. THEY TIRE OUT IN LESS THAN A MINUTE AND WILL THEN DROWN.

PUDDLE JUMPERS CONTRIBUTE TO WATER PHOBIA BECAUSE THEY DON'T ALLOW WATER ON THE FACE AND THEREFORE DON'T ALLOW CHILDREN TO BECOME USED TO THE WATER BEING ON THEIR FACES. IF THE WATER DOES HIT THEIR FACE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, THE CHILD IS MORE LIKELY TO PANIC, TAKE IN A "BREATH" WHILE UNDERWATER, FREEZE AND THEN NOT BE ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES. THEY THEN DON'T KNOW HOW THEIR OWN BODIES REACT IN THE WATER WITHOUT A FLOTATION DEVICE ON AND THEY DON'T MAKE THE CONNECTION THAT THE DEVICE IS WHAT KEEPS THEM FLOATING AND NOT THEMSELVES. THEY THINK THAT THEY ARE FLOATING ON THEIR OWN. SO, WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES FOR THEM TO GET INTO WATER (WHEN THEY AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE IN IT), THEY ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO DO SO WITHOUT THE DEVICE ON AND WITHOUT A PARENT, THINKING THEY CAN SWIM ON THEIR OWN, WHEN THEY REALLY CAN'T. THIS IS WHEN THEY DROWN.

None of these devices are Coast Guard approved except the puddle jumper and the life jacket and none of them are even evaluated by the Coast Guard or anyone else for safe use in pool situations. The Coast Guard only assesses and approves devices for use in open water. They do not assess their use or the effects of their use in pools.

Puddle jumpers are Coast Guard approved for open water, but at the lowest level possible-in completely calm water, with a parent within arm's reach at all times. There is no real life, open water situation in which that happens.

Puddle jumpers are not reliable as a safety measure in any water that is not completely calm. They are marketed as a "swim aid", but no device is a swim aid. They hinder children from learning to swim and swim instructors tell us that it takes twice as long for kids who have been in puddle jumpers to learn to swim as it does for kids who never used them.

Flotation devices of any kind should never be used as a swim aid because of the reasons above.

69% of drownings happen when it's not swim time-meaning they happen when kids sneak back to the pool without you, after swim time is over, when they won't have the device on, and then they drown. If they learn what their bodies can and can't do in the water by not using the devices, they are much less likely to sneak back to the water, because they will know by their experience that they will sink and thus, they won't try to swim.

Life jackets are the only safe floatation device and we believe that even they should not be used at a pool. They should only be used in open water like oceans, lakes and rivers (where it is very important that they are used). Life jackets were made for open water where so much is unpredictable and hard for even the best swimmers to navigate. They were never meant to be used in pools or during swim times in calm, predictable water.

Instead, children should learn to float on their backs and then learn survival swim techniques, as well as always having one-on-one touch supervision (a parent or adult never being outside of an arm's reach of a non-swimmer) in and around the water while they are still non-swimmers. While they learn and once they have learned their skills. Do not put them back in a device in a pool. This will unteach what they have learned in lessons.

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