



## **Dear Parents/Guardians,**

In Miami-Dade County, more children ages 1-14 lose their lives due to drowning than any other cause of accidental death. **You can protect your child.**

**Zero drownings Miami-Dade provides Water Safety Education classes and swim lessons to do all we can to prevent drownings.** These lessons provide up to ten 30-minute classes over a two-week period where your child will learn valuable water safety and swimming skills at no cost to you. This is a curriculum-based program taught by certified American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors with a certified lifeguard present during all class times.

**You are receiving this letter because your child is eligible to participate, but you must still register them online following the instructions below. No child may participate without their parent or guardian completing all required permission forms.**

This program is currently offered to children who attend select Miami-Dade County Public Schools kindergarten classrooms, and four and five-year-olds in Miami-Dade County's Head Start programs and The Children's Trust Thrive by 5 Child Care Centers (high-quality centers in high-need neighborhoods). Each participating class is pre-selected in advance for this field trip opportunity.

**Zero Drownings Miami-Dade is an inclusive program for children with special needs.** If your child has a special need, medical condition, disability, or a behavioral concern, be sure to answer all the questions related to their needs in the registration forms so that the program may provide accommodations. You should also discuss with your child's school or child care center any medical, disability, or special needs that will need accommodation.

### **Once in the program, you and your child can expect the following:**

- Your child will be transported with their classmates, teacher, and pre-approved chaperones to the nearest participating pool by school bus or on foot if the pool is within walking distance.
- Once at the pool, attendance will be taken, and Water Safety Instructors will lead participants through a water safety presentation highlighting how to stay safer around water.
- They will then get in the water and your child will be taught critical water competency skills, which include how to safely enter and exit the water, breathing control, floating, changing body orientation, and propulsion. A pre and post-test will be given to measure your child's ability to step into water, turn, and exit to a position of safety.
- **Important note – only pre-authorized school or program staff members and chaperones will be permitted to join the children on the field trip, each will have Zero Drownings Miami-Dade identification. No other parents/caregivers will be permitted inside the pool area or on the bus during field trips. For questions about chaperone policies, please ask your child's school.**
- **Once the lesson is complete each day, your child will be transported/walked back to their school with their class, teacher, and chaperones and will resume their normal school schedule.**

There are several steps you should take to prepare your child for this water safety program. First, talk to your child about what to expect from the program and get them excited about swimming. Second, during the duration of the course, send your child to school each day wearing a bathing suit under their clothes and pack a towel for them to bring to the pool. Do not forget to pack undergarments to change into after swimming, as well as a plastic bag for storing their wet bathing suit.

We also invite you to join the Zero Drownings Miami-Dade movement by enrolling in a free 15-minute on-line water safety course for parents, developed by the American Red Cross. When you create a Zero Drownings Miami-Dade account using the QR code below and successfully register your child, you will be sent a confirmation email that provides access to the American Red Cross safety course which is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

By completing this safety course and registering your child for the Zero Drownings Miami-Dade swim lessons, you will have taken a critical step toward making them safer in, on, and around the water.

## How to Register Your Child:

### 1. Access the Registration Page

Scan the QR code with your device's camera (phone, tablet. Etc.) or enter the URL [JoinZeroChallenge.org](http://JoinZeroChallenge.org) in your browser.



### 2. Create Your Account

Use your email address to set up a parent account.  
Check your inbox for a verification code and enter it to confirm your account.

### 3. Complete Your Profile

After creating your account, fill out your personal details to proceed.

### 4. Add Your Child

Select the "Register a New Child" option and enter your child's unique ID number to link them to your account.

### 5. Complete the Registration Form

Fill out the required information. Please note this process does not guarantee enrollment. Space may be limited and provide on a first-come, first-served basis.

### 6. Check for Confirmation

Look for a confirmation email to verify that registration is complete.



**ZERO  
DROWNINGS  
MIAMI-DADE**  
JoinTheZeroChallenge

Learn more at [ZeroDrowningsMiamiDade.org](http://ZeroDrowningsMiamiDade.org)