KEEPING KIDS SAFE IN THE WATER

The YMCA of Greater Erie is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable pool experience for all. All youth 17 and under must complete the YMCA Deep Water Competency Test which assesses swimming ability for deep water. Those that complete the test successfully will be given a green band; inexperienced swimmers are considered non-swimmers. These bands help our certified lifeguards keep swimmers safe.

GREEN BAND

A green band allows swimmers to use all swimming pools.

To receive a green band, swimmers must demonstrate the following skills:
• Jump in deep water and return to the surface without grabbing the wall; the swimmer may not grab the wall at any time
• Swim a full length of the pool unassisted on your front without touching the sides
• Float on back for a minimum of 10 seconds and regain vertical position on your own
• Tread water for one minute with ears and face above water at all times
• Exit the pool without assistance
Green banded swimmers 8 and under must have adult supervision in the pool or on the pool deck at all times; **youth 5 and under must have an adult in the water within arm's reach**.

Children who can walk but cannot demonstrate the required skills or do not wish to participate in the assessment will be classified as a non-swimmer.

Swimmers that do not pass the green band test, or those who decline to, are considered an inexperienced swimmer:
•Youth 5 and under must have an adult in the water within arm's reach
•Only allowed in the designated shallow area of the pool
• Inexperienced swimmers will be offered the use of a Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) with adult supervision. Water wings are prohibited as they are not an approved floatation device
• Active adult supervision means that an adult must be within one arm's reach of the swimmer and must be at least 18 years of age. One adult per two non-swimmers is highly recommended. The **Lifeguards reserve the right** to limit the ratio of child to parent based on pool and crowd conditions.