

KIDS FIRST Swim School Bowie Testimonial

On June 16 2014 we were staying at the Quality Inn Boardwalk in Ocean City Maryland. We had arrived mid-day and the girls wanted to go to the pool and swim as soon as we got there. So the three of us, (mom Michele, and sisters Lindsay and Maddie) headed down to the pool shortly after settling into our room.

The girls immediately jumped into the water and began to have a good time splashing and playing. After a short while they had made a few new friends and all were splashing and playing. Maddie had a younger girl start closely following her around. On several occasions the younger girl began to follow her into the deeper end of the water. Maddie told her to stay in the shallow water where she can stand with her head above the water. About a half an hour later, Maddie swam through the deep end and climbed out on the ladder then headed around to jump in again.

I saw Maddie quickly turn and jump back in the deep end of the pool, very close to another child. At that point I was going to yell at her thinking she was not paying attention to the others in the pool but quickly realized what she was doing. The younger girl had followed Maddie into the deeper water and was not able to keep her head above the water. Without hesitation or concern for her own safety Maddie jumped into the deep water, went under and grabbed the girl by the arm and pulled her to the edge.

By the time Maddie had her to the wall her father and I were heading to the children from the shallower end. As Maddie got the girl to grab onto the wall her father arrived and quickly grabbed his daughter to check her. The girl was fine however a little scared. During the rest of the week whenever the little girl saw Maddie she would call out “There’s my BFF”.

This makes me think back to the first time my girls ever went near the water and how excited and nervous I got, hoping they would have the same love of the water that I have had all my life. But I wanted them to learn how to swim correctly and safely. This made me enroll my oldest daughter Lindsay in a swim program at a local gym when she was only 8 months old. She enjoyed the swimming but she was only 8 months old and I had to be persistent. When Maddie turned 3, I also wanted to get her into swimming as my parents loved having the girls around the water during their summer visits with them at the beach.

My husband, a firefighter, had just done a building inspection on a new pool in our neighborhood called “Kids First Swim School” in Bowie Maryland and said we should try it out. We enrolled both girls in their classes. They started from the basics and moved up quickly. The one thing that sticks in my memory is always hearing an instructor say “Kick to safety”. It apparently stuck with Maddie. After she helped the little girl, she stood on the pool deck and said to me, “Mommy, always kick to safety”

Thank you to Brandon Sollars and his staff, they gave both of my children the skills and ability to help someone in trouble in the water, but most of all “Kids First Swim School” taught them how to have fun safely in the water.