



<p>CG: Erika Kemp Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p>	<p>SWIMMING CAN BE SCARY. IN FACT, DROWNING IS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH¹ AMONG THOSE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM. :15</p> <p><i>“They wander, they get away, they're drawn towards a pond or something in their neighborhood, or they're out on vacation and they are drawn towards the beach or the pool. So that is where we see the highest incidents of drowning in individuals with autism.” :13</i></p>
<p>Shots of instructors teaching swim class</p>	<p>THAT’S WHY RESEARCHERS AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER DEVELOPED AN ADAPTIVE SWIM PROGRAM TO TEACH THE BASICS OF SWIMMING - AND EVEN A LOVE OF THE WATER - TO YOUNG SWIMMERS LIKE COOPER. :10</p>
<p>Sarah Cline (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“We started the program at OSU and it's helped him a lot with his comfort in and around the water. And he's actually started enjoying it.” :10</i></p>
<p>Shots of Kemp working on computer</p> <p>Shot of swim student jumping off diving board and getting out of the pool safely.</p>	<p>ERIKA KEMP, A PEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT OHIO STATE, LAUNCHED A NEW PILOT STUDY OFFERING PERSONALIZED AQUATIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN. INITIAL RESULTS SHOW THAT THE CLASSES NOT ONLY IMPROVE SWIM SKILLS AND SAFETY, THEY BUILD COMPETENCY THAT GOES BEYOND THE WATER. :17</p>
<p>Erika Kemp (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“So many times, families just want to go to the pool in the summer with all of their children. And so what I want to do is enable those families to feel like they can do that.” :10</i></p>
<p>Shots of Cooper in the pool</p>	<p>AND AFTER SPENDING TIME IN THE POOL WITH KEMP AND HER TEAM, COOPER IS SHOWING MAJOR SIGNS OF PROGRESS. :05</p>
<p>Sarah Cline (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“He's excited to go every week. And he's excited to get in. He smiles and laughs and splashes.” :07</i></p>
<p>Erika Kemp (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“Every kid that we've put through the program has made gains.” :03</i></p>
<p>Shots of Cooper in the pool</p>	<p>FOR COOPER AND HIS FAMILY, THAT MEANS LESS WORRYING AND MORE SUMMER FUN. :04</p>
<p>Sarah Cline (CG’d earlier)</p>	<p><i>“It just makes me really happy and proud. It's amazing seeing him succeed and be happy. :06</i></p>
<p>Shots of swimming class</p>	<p>AT THE OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :02</p>

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<p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<hr/> <p>WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, OHIO STATE IS EXPANDING THEIR RESEARCH AND THE ADAPTIVE SWIM CLASSES, WITH THE GOAL OF IMPLEMENTING SIMILAR PROGRAMS TO HELP THE MILLIONS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN SAFELY EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF SWIMMING.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p> <p> Suggested post:</p>	<hr/> <p>Did you know that drowning is the number one accidental cause of death for children on the autism spectrum? Occupational therapy experts at the @OSUWexMed have created a class to help teach autistic children to have a safe, fun summer in the water. https://bit.ly/3Mz63ri.</p> <hr/> <p>Drowning is the number one accidental cause of death for children on the autism spectrum. Occupational therapists at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center have created a special program that teaches children on the autism spectrum to be safe and have fun in the pool. https://bit.ly/3Mz63ri.</p>
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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Erika Kemp Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>CG: Sarah Cline Cooper's mom</p>	<p>Kemp talks about teaching children with autism: <i>“Every kid is a little bit different, and a lot of the big challenges have to do with being able to learn in the same way that their peers learn.”</i></p> <p>Kemp explains why safety is so important for kids with autism: <i>“The big focus is safety swim skills, that if they were to be out of view of a parent or on a vacation or wander away and find themselves near a pond. A lot of kids with autism love water. They love the feel of the water on their body. They love to splash. They love to be in that world.”</i></p> <p>Kemp says the program is personalized for each child: <i>“What's their best mode of learning? What type of person should they be paired with? Do they need visuals? Do they need reinforcers? All of those kinds of things can also be embedded, which is I think what makes this unique and that it's not just focused on swim skills. But also we're supporting the instructional needs and the interventional needs of each child.” :21</i></p> <hr/> <p>Sarah says Cooper has made a lot of progress: <i>“Now he'll actually hop by himself in the shallow end of the pool. He can pull himself in and out of the water. He can put on flippers and kick his legs and move his arms. He's been willing to jump off the edge if someone catches him.” :17</i></p>
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CG: Sarah Cline
Cooper's mom

Sarah says the program gave her a newfound peace of mind:
"As a mom, it makes me feel a lot more comfortable taking him around water, just because I feel like he is a little safer and he is definitely happier, which makes me happy."

Sarah says every kid should have the chance to succeed:
"I think it's beautiful that programs like this exist because all children, no matter their neurology, deserve to take part in activities and get help that they need and the support that they need to succeed."

References

¹*Autism & Safety Facts*, **National Autism Association**. Online:
<https://nationalautismassociation.org/resources/autism-safety-facts/>

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