

## Summary of Aquatic Rule Change Effective November 1, 2007

### 10A NCAC 09 .1403 - Aquatic Activities

- Aquatic activities are defined as activities that take place in, on, or around a body of water such as swimming, swimming instruction, wading, visits to water parks, and boating.
- For every 25 children participating in aquatic activities, there must be at least one person who has a current life guard training certificate. These certified lifeguards cannot be counted in the required staff-child ratio.
- Children under the age of three may not participate in aquatic activities unless it is necessary to implement any child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- The following staff-child ratios must be maintained during aquatic activities:

<u>Age of Children</u>	<u>Ratio staff/Children</u>
3 to 4 years	1/8
4 to 5 years	1/10
5 years or older	1/13

- Regardless of the number of children participating, a minimum of two staff members must supervise aquatic activities.
- Adequate supervision must be maintained at all times. Half the center staff needed to meet staff-child ratios must be in the water and the other half must be out of the water. \*
- Staff must be positioned in pre-assigned areas that will allow them at all times to hear, see, and respond quickly to children.
- The center must develop aquatic activity policies.
- Staff must sign and date statements that they reviewed the policies.

\*The only exception is in the event children are participating in "learn to swim" programs. In this case, the number of child care providers required to meet the child-staff ratios may be on the pool deck. **Providers must be within a few feet** of the children able to hear and see knowing that they have ultimate responsibility for the children who are taking lessons.