Water Activities for CASAs and Case Children

As CASAs engage their assigned case children in a variety of enriching and fun activities exposure to water and watercraft is highly likely. While it is important for our children to experience a variety of different opportunities, the safety of our CASAs and case children is paramount. Whenever a case child will be near a body of water, CASAs should consider several safety factors, including the child’s age, the child’s perceived and actual swimming ability, sunscreen application, lifeguard presence, appropriate attire, and supervision while the child is in the water.

Our policy is:

* CASAs may not take their case children to swimming pools or water parks. However, outings to splash parks with only knee-deep water, such as the Heritage Park splash pad in Riverside, are permitted with appropriate supervision.
* CASAs may not take their case children to swim in the ocean or nearby lakes; however, playing in knee-deep water is permitted with appropriate supervision.
* Any activity involving the use of boats, paddleboards, surfboards, or other watercraft must be approved in writing by the county social worker and the advocacy supervisor. Remember, VFC does not permit any activity requiring a signed waiver.