Developing Good Technique

Home activities help develop good form or build stamina in a particular skill. When the skill has been mastered on land or in a bathtub, it becomes easier to perform in the water.

1 Position
Lie on back in bathtub with straight arms and legs, head tilted slightly back, looking at ceiling.

2 Float
Keeping the back flat and in the water, float for 10 seconds.

3 Relax & Repeat
After 10 seconds, come out of the float position. Rest for a few seconds, then repeat the complete activity three times. Do this activity two to three times throughout the course of the swim lessons session.

Home activities should be performed under adult supervision.

YMCA Swim Lessons
Helpful Tips

During the activity, pay attention to the following:

1. Are chest and tummy pointed up?
2. Are elbows straight?
3. Is head tilted slightly back, looking at ceiling?
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1 Position

Lie on floor in a front-glide position with arms and legs hovering a couple of inches off the ground. Keep head down and biceps behind ears.

2 Kick Leg

From the hip, lift one leg up without bending the knee. Keep feet pointed but slightly relaxed.

3 Alternate

Kick the second leg up as you bring the first leg down. Both legs should make the same movement. Continue to alternate legs for 30 seconds. Do this activity two to three times throughout the course of the swim lessons session.

Home activities should be performed under adult supervision.
Helpful Tips

During the activity, pay attention to the following:

1. Does the kick come from the hips?
2. Is the leg straight during the upward kick?
3. Are feet pointed but slightly relaxed?
4. Do legs make the same movement?
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1 Position

Practice front float in the bathtub. Lie on stomach with straight arms and legs.

2 Float

Submerge face, relax body, and float for a few seconds. If hesitant to submerge face, submerge chin or blow bubbles.

3 Relax & Repeat

Move into a sitting position. Rest for a few seconds, then repeat the complete activity three times. Do this activity two to three times throughout the course of the swim lessons session.

Home activities should be performed under adult supervision.
FRONT FLOAT / BODY POSITION

Helpful Tips

During the activity, pay attention to the following:

1. Is the body relaxed?
2. Are elbows straight?
3. Is chin tucked?
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Home activities help develop good form or build stamina in a particular skill. When the skill has been mastered on land, it becomes easier to perform in the water.

1 Position

Lie on stomach on floor with straight arms and legs. Extend arms in a glide position: hands together, elbows straight, biceps behind ears, and head down.

2 Hold

Keeping the torso on the ground, lift arms and legs a couple of inches off the ground and hold for five seconds.

3 Relax & Repeat

After five seconds, let the arms and legs relax. Rest for a few seconds, then repeat. Do this activity two to three times throughout the course of the swim lessons session.

Home activities should be performed under adult supervision.

YMCA Swim Lessons
Helpful Tips

During the activity, pay attention to the following:

1. Are biceps behind ears?
2. Are elbows straight?
3. Is head down?
4. Are legs straight?
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Home activities help develop good form or build stamina in a particular skill. When the skill has been mastered on land or in a bathtub, it becomes easier to perform in the water.

1 Blow at Surface
Practice blowing bubbles in the bathtub. Start by blowing at the surface of the water.

2 Submerge Face
Blow bubbles with lips and nose in the water. Hum so that air flows naturally through the mouth and nose.

3 Repeat
Work up to putting the whole face underwater while blowing bubbles and keeping eyes open. Repeat at every bath time throughout the course of the swim lessons session.

Home activities should be performed under adult supervision.
Helpful Tips

During the activity, pay attention to the following:

1. Do bubbles last longer than three seconds?
2. Is there any accidental inhalation of water?
3. Are eyes open underwater?
4. Is air coming out of nose and mouth?