



Splashing around at The Colony

Special thanks to Jenni Nitsch, VCM

The children at The Colony in Oxnard had fun making a splash during the summer holidays, while attending swimming lessons provided by their manufactured home community.

The Colony offered children of all ages the opportunity to learn how to swim or to improve their swimming skills in lessons provided by the YMCA's "Backyard Swimming Program," which was again sponsored by Vedder Community Management (VCM).

Jenni Nitsch, Operations Manager of VCM says, "We wanted to give the children and parents something fun to do during the summer. I contacted the YMCA Aquatics Department to inquire about setting up swim lessons in our community. I was introduced to their "Backyard Swim Program", which was perfect for what we were looking. The YMCA coordinates a variety of swim lessons based on age and experience—right where you live!"

The Colony has been providing swimming lessons to its younger residents for the past three years. All classes are taught by YMCA instructors, with a certified YMCA lifeguard on duty. The program is ideally suited for children living in manufactured home communities as it allows children the opportunity to take swimming lessons at the community pool. Because the swim lessons are held right at home, it is also a great opportunity for parents to get out and socialize with their neighbors.

"We had a total of 15 children participate in the program," resident manager Melissa Avila said. "We had several returning children who can really swim now and several new little ones. One of the parents is so happy that her three children can now swim and are no longer afraid of the water. She now brings them regularly to our pool and is very grateful because she would never have been able to afford lessons for her children."

The swimming lessons have proven to be a big hit with parents and children residing at The Colony. One participant said: "The swim lessons were fun and good for me too. I didn't know how to swim and I used to be scared, but now I can swim all the way to six feet and even jump

in! Thank you to the manager for the fun swimming lessons."

Maria Huante, whose children participated in the swimming lessons, expressed her gratitude towards the program. "I'm very grateful to the community for providing these classes for our children. It shows that the management truly cares for our children by providing these summer activities. Not only does it entertain them during the summer months, but they actually learn something." ☀

Vedder Community Management



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