


# SPORT DIVER

 PADI™ THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING

**MAKE YOUR  
DIVE  
DREAMS  
COME TRUE**

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INSPIRE YOUR  
KID TO DIVE

...  
ZOOM IN ON THE  
COOLEST CRITTERS

...  
EXPLORE THE  
WORLD'S LARGEST REEF

GO DEEPER

**9 KICK-ASS FINS**  
TO SWIM  
STRONGER  
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THAT WILL  
SURPRISE YOU  
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**40 KILLER PICS**  
THAT WILL BLOW  
YOUR MIND

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# IS YOUR KID READY TO DIVE?

From tips on the big decision to the right PADI training to the perfect destination for that first group dip, we give parents the tools to make the calls

What are the magic words that every scuba-passionate parent dreams of hearing from his offspring? "Let's go diving!" Introducing your children to the ultimate aquatic lifestyle is the beginning of a lifetime of adventure. It's also a sure bet for forging a lasting bond that you'll share for years to come, not to mention a real benefit to the health, confidence and well-being of everyone involved. But where do you begin? You can't just throw the kids into the deep end and hope they'll love it. That's why we've put together this complete kit for getting your kids hooked on diving.



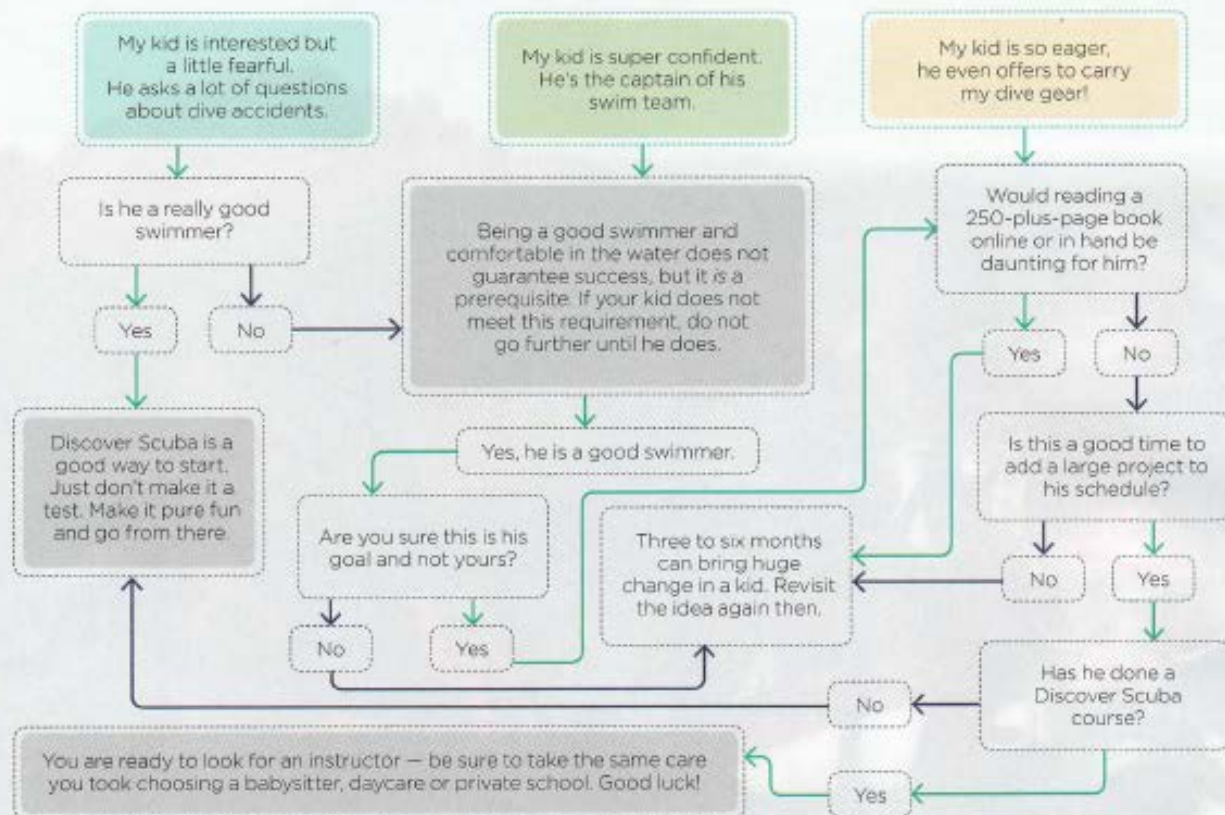
# Is Your Kid Ready to Dive?

Scuba diving is a fun and exciting activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. However, it is important to ensure that your child is ready to dive before taking them on a scuba diving trip. There are several factors to consider when determining if your child is ready to dive, including their age, maturity, and ability to follow instructions.



## Is Your Kid Ready to Dive?

Based on the teachings of PADI Course Director Lynn Wickline of Aquatic Realm Scuba Center in Centerville, Ohio, who has more than a decade of experience teaching kids to dive (chart assumes the child has no medical or learning-disability issues):



## How to Entice Your Kid to Dive

**Annie Crawley, aka Ocean Annie,** is an educator, entertainer and environmental advocate who works to raise awareness about ocean issues. We asked her for ideas on inspiring kids to dive.

**Positive Programming** Tell them they can become scuba divers, underwater photographers, treasure hunters, underwater archaeologists and more. Encourage them to role-play, and share your scuba experiences with them.

**Positive Experience** Start your kids in swimming lessons as early as possible. When a child is comfortable in the water, learning to scuba dive becomes easy. Don't pass on your own fears.

**Connect with Other Families** Kids like to be with other kids — your local PADI Dive Center is a good place to connect with parents who have kids who are comfortable in the water. Kids Sea Camp ([familydivers.com](http://familydivers.com)) has been running unique family expeditions for more than a decade.

**Watch/Read/View** Age-appropriate ocean apps, books and multimedia are a great enticement for kids. Media such as *Jaws*, *SpongeBob SquarePants* and Discovery Channel's Shark Week do not promote diving as the awesome experience we know it to be. These types of shows perpetuate fear and make the ocean scary.

**Tune Out** Turn off the news when there has been a shark incident — media descriptions of "attacks" can be misleading and confusing. Share what is happening to shark and ray populations,

and empower kids to help by getting involved with groups like Project Aware ([projectaware.org](http://projectaware.org)).

Find more resources at [diveintoyourimagination.com](http://diveintoyourimagination.com).



J.W. ALKER/GALAMY

# How to Get the Bubbles Flowing

PADI's courses for kids make it easy to get your children started in scuba and soon have your family diving together. Visit your local PADI Dive Center or go to [padi.com](http://padi.com) for more info.

## \* **Bubblemaker®**

Kids 8 and up can try breathing on scuba in the pool in less than six feet of water — a Bubblemaker birthday party is a great way to get started. Sessions last about an hour, and kids will get to take their first underwater breath on equipment designed for children.

## \* **PADI Seal Team®**

Youngsters 8 and up perform "AquaMissions" in a pool — learning things like what it's like to dive with a flashlight, take digital pictures underwater or float effortlessly like an astronaut — under close instructor supervision. The class has two parts: AquaMissions, which teaches the basics (buoyancy control, mask clearing, regulator recovery), and specialty AquaMissions, which usually lasts about an hour.

## \* **Junior Open Water Diver**

Kids can earn the full PADI Open Water Diver certification, with some limitations: Certified 10- to 11-year-olds can dive to 40 feet with a certified adult; certified 12- to 14-year-olds can go deeper, with a certified adult.

## \* **Junior Advanced Open Water Diver**

For ages 12 to 14 who are ready to continue their adventure and build their experience. Kids learn the same skills that adults do in

an Advanced course but are restricted to diving with a certified adult.

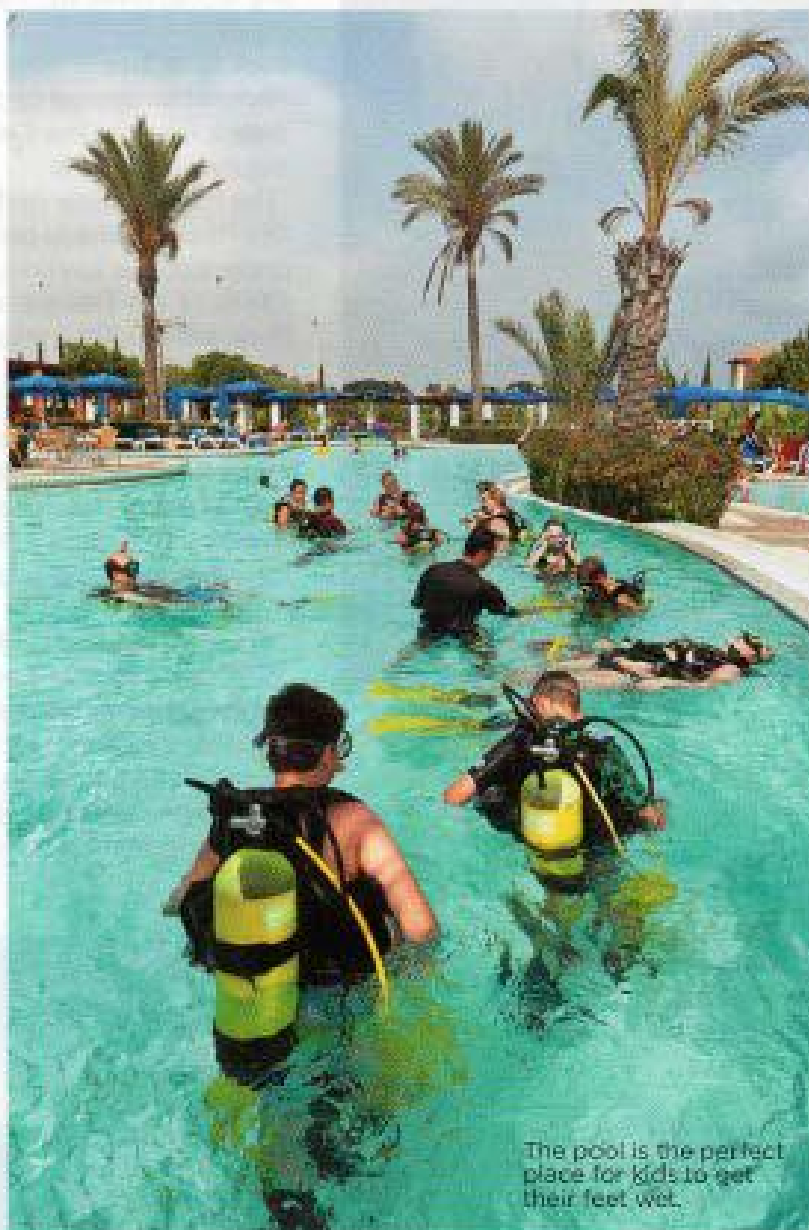
## \* **Junior Rescue Diver**

Young divers ages 12 to 14 learn to master the skills in the PADI Rescue Diver

course, diving with a certified adult.

## \* **Junior Master Scuba Diver™**

For divers ages 12 to 14 ready to begin working toward their Master Scuba Diver rating, diving with a certified adult.



The pool is the perfect place for kids to get their feet wet.