

“Be Aware When Water’s There!”

PAWTER in the WATER

Rhyming stories
about
Water safety

5 Life
Saving Rules
and
Stories!

Created by
Angie Baker, Calli Brennan,
and Joe Baker

Listen to the
Pawter in the Water album at
pawterinthewater.com





“Be Aware When Water’s There!”

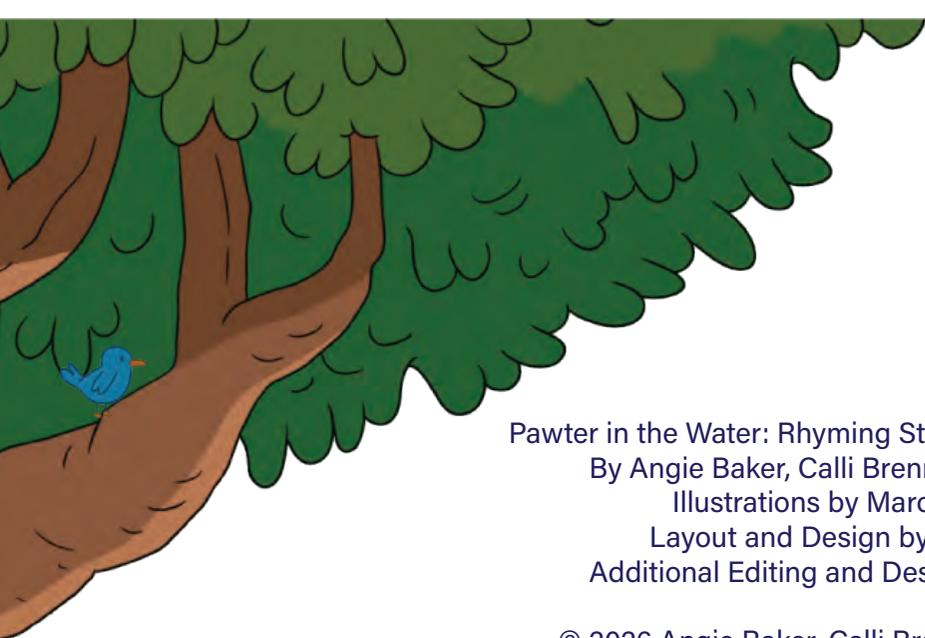
PAWTER in the WATER

Rhyming stories
about
water safety

Created by
Angie Baker, Calli Brennan,
and Joe Baker



THE
PRESS
AT **Cal Poly
Humboldt.**



Pawter in the Water: Rhyming Stories About Water Safety
By Angie Baker, Calli Brennan, and Joe Baker
Illustrations by Marouane Htoug
Layout and Design by Sarah Godlin
Additional Editing and Design by Juno Leone

© 2026 Angie Baker, Calli Brennan, and Joe Baker

Published by The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
ISBN: 978-1-962081-45-0
First Edition, January 2026

Printed in the United States of America

THE
PRESS
AT **Cal Poly
Humboldt.**

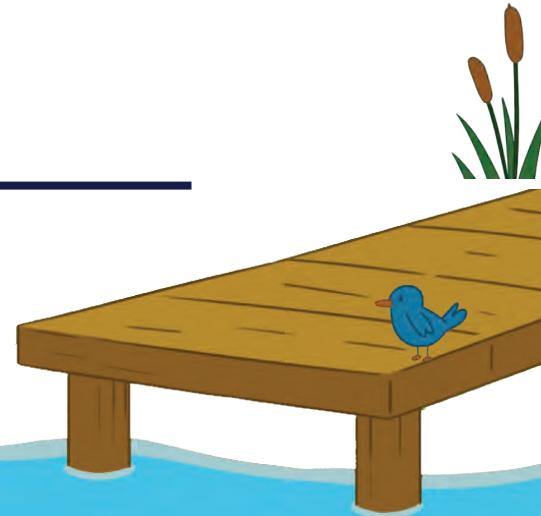




pawterinthewater.com



**This water safety
book belongs to:**



We want to dedicate this book to our children, Ché, Cam, Evan, Matteo, Sebastián and Fiorella. You are the reason we dream, create, and care so deeply about keeping little ones safe in the water. Your curious wild energy and laughter inspire us every day.

Thank you to our husbands, Joe Baker and Jose Corrales for your unwavering support, patience, and belief in this mission. Your encouragement makes everything possible.

We are deeply grateful to the many individuals whose support and contributions helped bring Pawter in the Water to life; especially Jeremiah Walsh, everyone at Sun Oaks and First 5 Shasta.



Contents

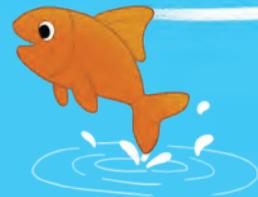
Story #1: Pawter Goes to the Water.....Page 1
Story #2: Pawter Falls in the Water.....Page 13
Story #3: Pawter Learns to Back Float.....Page 25
Story #4: Pawter Learns to Play Safe.....Page 37
Story #5: Pawter Helps a Friend.....Page 49
Pause for Pawter's Life Saving Rules.....Page 60

Pawter in the Water is designed to support water safety awareness. Pawter is not responsible for individual actions or outcomes, and the information provided in this book does not replace adult supervision, formal swim instruction, or water competency.



Children should always be actively supervised by a responsible grown-up around water. Following Pawter's rules does not guarantee safety and should be used only as a supplement to proper water safety practices, training, and judgment.

Always prioritize supervision, preparedness, and safe decision-making when water is present.





STORY #1

Pawter Goes to the Water

There once was a puppy named Pawter
who lived by a big pool of water.

Everyday when he looked out,
he would see the animals splashing about.

It looked like so much fun,
swimming in the warm sun.





One day Pawter stopped and thought,
Should I go swimming by myself or not?

I'm sure I'll be just fine.
I'll splash around and be back in no time.







Mother yelled, “Stop!
If you want to go near the water,
first you need my permission, Pawter.

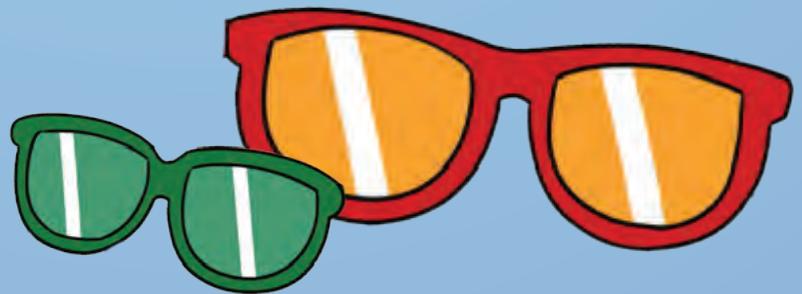
**NEVER SWIM ALONE,
ALWAYS ASK SOMEONE GROWN.**



**NO
LIFEGUARD
ON DUTY**

“Remember that time we went to the pool?
Your cousin jumped in and forgot this same rule.

He got really scared ‘cuz the water was deep.
He hadn’t told anyone where he would be.”



“Your father was there to jump in and grab him.
But rules keep you safe and that’s why we have them.

No one was hurt but from stories we learn,
it’s important to have grown-ups watching your turn.

So always ask permission to go near the water.
We just want you to be safe, our precious little Pawter.”



Be aware when water's there!



Safety is my mission.
Want to go near the water?



First ask permission.



Pause for Pawter Rule #1:

**NEVER SWIM ALONE,
ALWAYS ASK SOMEONE GROWN**



Water Safety Prompts:

1. What is the first thing you need to do if you want to go swimming or play near the water?
2. Who is a grown-up?
3. Is it ever ok to swim alone?

Answers:

1. Always ask a grown-up for permission and make sure they are there to watch you while you're in or near the water — even if you're a good swimmer!
2. A grown-up can be your mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, babysitter, or another trusted adult who is in charge of keeping you safe.
3. No! You should NEVER swim alone. ALWAYS have a grown-up with you!



STORY #2

Pawter Falls in the Water

There once was a puppy named Pawter who lived by a big pool of water.

Everyday when he looked out, he would see the animals splashing about.

It looked like so much fun, swimming in the warm sun.



Pawter couldn't swim yet
but he liked splashing around.

He thought he'd be safe
if he stayed on the ground.

I'm not IN the water,
OUTSIDE is okay.

But he had so much fun,
that he fell in while he played.



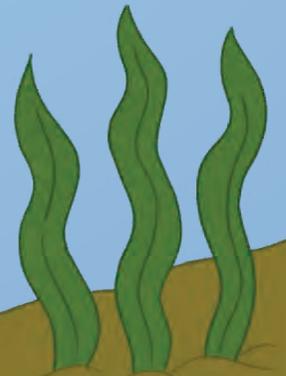


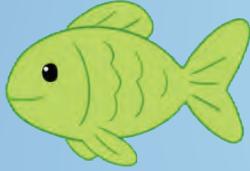


**IF YOU FALL IN,
TURN BACK AND SWIM**

Now he was in danger but what did he do?
He remembered an important rhyme that he knew.

**IF YOU FALL IN,
TURN BACK AND SWIM.**





Even though he was scared, he was also prepared.
So he reached and he kicked like a big polar bear.

He didn't go down, he stayed calm at the top
and made it back to the side 'cuz his paws never stopped.

He swam to the edge; he was finally safe.
Mom was already there with a frightened face.





“I’m so proud of you, Pawter, you never gave up.
You saved yourself, you brave little pup.

The water can be a dangerous place,
that’s why there are rules to keep you safe.

It can also be fun and happy to play,
to splash and swim in the water all day.

It looks like it’s time for you to learn how,
first, let’s get you dry pal.”



Be aware when water's there!

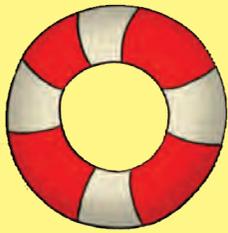
If you fall,
get back
to the wall.

Stay calm.



Pause for Pawter Rule #2:

**IF YOU FALL IN,
TURN BACK AND SWIM**



Water Safety Prompts:

1. What do you do if you fall in the water?
2. It is important that you stay _____.
3. Should you ever go to the water alone?

Example Responses:

1. If you fall in the water, turn around and swim back to where you came from. Try to help yourself first — don't wait for someone else.
Tip! Did you know your head is your steering wheel in the water? If you turn your head in the direction you want to go, your body will follow. Kick your legs and reach with your arms to get back to the wall. When you reach the edge, pull yourself out and get help. This takes practice and should always be done with the supervision of a grown-up.
2. It is important to always stay calm. If you fall in, you may have all your clothes on. The water may be cold. Stay calm. Concentrate on kicking and swimming back to the side. When you stay calm and relaxed, your body can float, and it's easier to stay safe and breathe.
3. No! NEVER go to the water by yourself. ALWAYS ask a grown-up first and make sure they are watching you.



STORY #3

Pawter Learns to Back Float

There once was a puppy named Pawter who lived by a big pool of water.

Everyday when he looked out, he would see the animals splashing about.

It looked like so much fun, swimming in the warm sun.



One day he decided to be brave and try  and try 
to float on his back and look up to the sky.

“Dad, teach me! I’m ready to learn.
I feel so excited to take a turn!”

Dad said, “It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3.
Back floating can save you in a water emergency.

If you’re ever too tired to swim to the side,
roll onto your back to keep your face  dry.”





Back floating can save you
in a water emergency!



IF YOU NEED A REST,
BACK FLOAT IS BEST.



“Put your arms and your legs out in the shape of an **X**.
Lie your head back is what you do next.

Look at the sky, push your belly up high.
Stay calm and stay still, you can do it if you try.”

**IF YOU NEED A REST,
BACKFLOAT IS BEST.**



“I don’t like the water in my ears, I’m afraid I may fall!”

“Pawter, be brave and try hard. You can do it all.”

“The water got in my nose!

It burns! It hurts Dad!”

“Blow out your nose like getting boogers out.

It’s not that bad.”

“Oh no, I’m sinking! I’m scared!

I can’t stay up.”

“Look up high to keep your face dry.

Be brave, don’t give up!”







**“Dad, I’m doing it, look at me!
I’m floating on my back. You’re right, it is easy.”**





Be aware when water's there!

Look at the sky,
push your belly up high.



Pause for Pawter Rule #3:

IF YOU NEED A REST,
BACK FLOAT IS BEST



Water Safety Prompts:

1. To back float, what shape do you make with your arms and legs?
2. When back floating, where should you look your eyes?
3. Why is learning to back float so important?

Answers:

1. To back float, make the shape of the letter "X." Stretch your arms and legs out big and wide! Back floats look a lot like a snow angel or a starfish, too!
2. When back floating, look your eyes up at the sky! When you lay your head back and look up, your belly and legs can float to the surface more easily. Now that you are in your back float, take a big breath in your chest and make puffy cheeks. The air will keep you up like a floating balloon.
3. Learning to back float is important because it helps keep you safe! If you get too tired to swim, roll onto your back to rest and breathe.



STORY #4

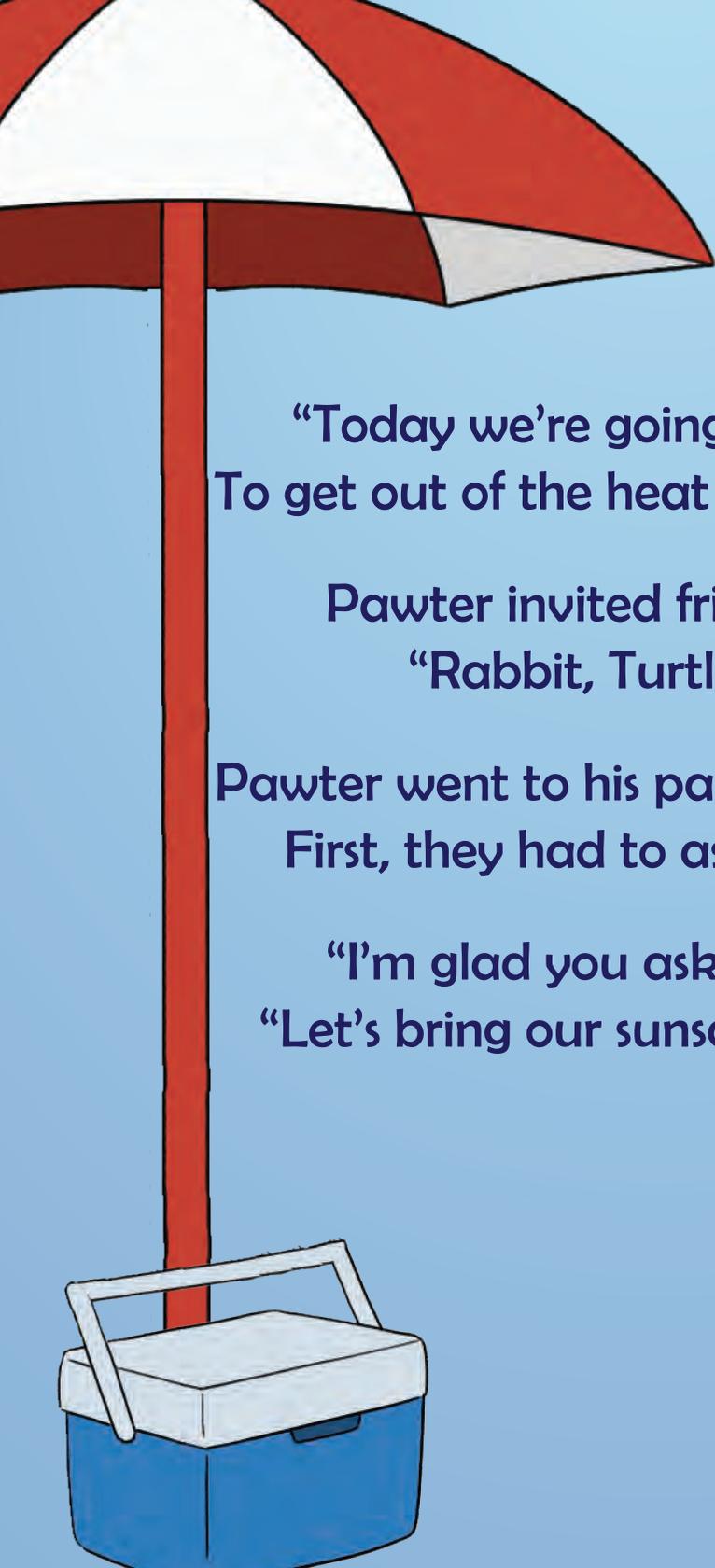
Pawter Learns to Play Safe

There once was a puppy named Pawter
who lived by a big pool of water.

Everyday when he looked out,
he would see the animals splashing about.

It looked like so much fun,
swimming in the warm sun.





“Today we’re going to the community pool!
To get out of the heat and to keep ourselves cool.”

Pawter invited friends to swim and play,
“Rabbit, Turtle and Fox, hooray!”

Pawter went to his parents before they jumped in.
First, they had to ask for permission to swim.

“I’m glad you asked!” Mom happily said.
“Let’s bring our sunscreen so we don’t get red!”



**Be Aware
When Water's There!**

Rabbit ran fast, “Look out below!”
“Stop!” said Pawter’s dad. “You must go slow!
Remember the rule is to walk at the pool.”

Turtle walked slowly but he yelled, “Cannonball!”
He didn’t check to see if anyone was there at all.

Mom reminded them,
“Look before you leap is an important rule.
You don’t want to hurt your friends at the pool.”

“I know you want to be rowdy and play,
but remember to do it the safe way.”



**Be Aware
When Water's There!**





LOOK OUT FOR
EACH OTHER,
HANDS OFF OF
ONE ANOTHER!

GUARD

42

“Let’s play tag! You’re it, Pawter!”
All the friends scattered in the water.

“Tag!” Pawter said, “I got you Fox!”
He pulled him down but Fox got caught-

under the water without any breath.
And when he came up, Fox was upset.

“I’m sorry Fox, I got carried away.”
Fox said to Pawter, “That’s ok.”

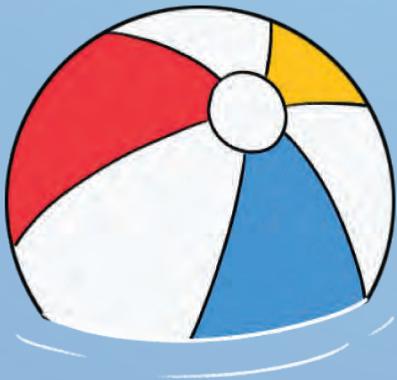
The lifeguard blew his whistle and made them sit out.

**“LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER,
HANDS OFF OF ONE ANOTHER!”**

he said with a shout!

They followed the rules for the rest of the day.
They jumped and they swam all the hours away.

“The day was a blast, I’m glad they could come.
Swimming with friends is always more fun!”





GUARD

Be aware when water's there!

Remember
this rule.
You don't want to
hurt your friends
at the pool.



Pause for Pawter Rule #4:

LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER
HANDS OFF OF ONE ANOTHER



Water Safety Prompts:

1. What are some important pool rules to follow?
2. You should always look before you ____.
3. Why is it so important to keep your hands to yourself in the water?

Answers:

1. Some important pool rules are: **LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER, HANDS OFF OF ONE ANOTHER.** Always walk around the water. Look before you leap. **NEVER SWIM ALONE, ALWAYS ASK SOMEONE GROWN.**
2. You should always look before you leap! Always check that the water is clear and safe before jumping in. Make sure no one is in the way and that the water is a safe depth.
3. It is important to keep your hands to yourself, because if you grab or push someone, they might go underwater and not be able to breathe. Sometimes someone may grab onto you because they are scared. They may need help staying above the water.
Tip! If someone holds you under the water, push them off of you so you are able to come back up. Tell them, “STOP, and call for HELP!”



STORY #5

Pawter Helps a Friend

There once was a puppy named Pawter who lived by a big pool of water.

Everyday when he looked out, he would see the animals splashing about.

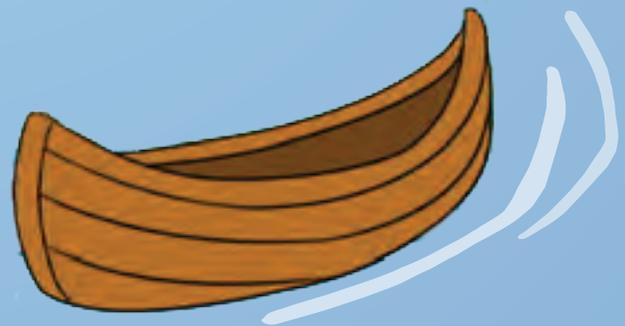
It looked like so much fun, swimming in the warm sun.



Raccoon and Pawter took off for the dock.
They planned to go fishing at their old fishing spot.

They were excited to be out on the water.
Raccoon loved to fish and so did young Pawter.

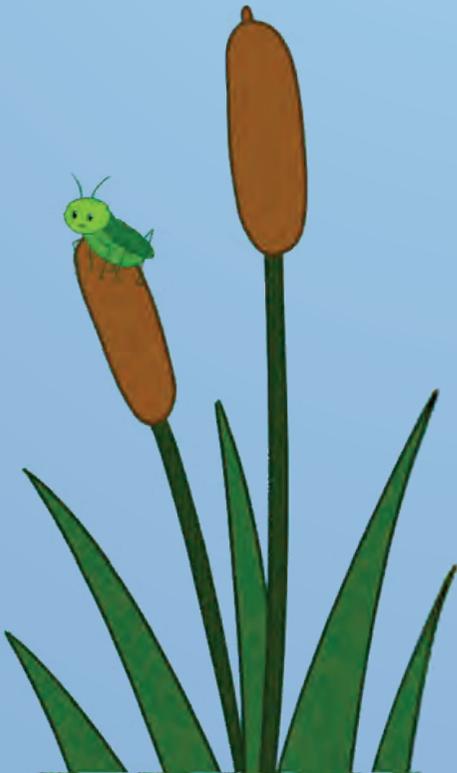
They walked to the end of the dock and sat down.
They were all alone, with no one around.





Raccoon loved fishing; he just couldn't wait.
So he strung up his pole and he loaded his bait.

He went to cast off and lost balance and tripped.
Pawter watched Raccoon and saw that he slipped.







HELP OTHERS
FROM THE SIDE

HELP!



Raccoon yelled, “Help!” when he fell in the water,
“Please jump in and save me Pawter!”

Pawter knew better, he knew what to try.
He remembered the rule,

HELP OTHERS FROM THE SIDE.

Throw them a floaty, do not jump in.
Reach with a tool from the side but don’t swim.

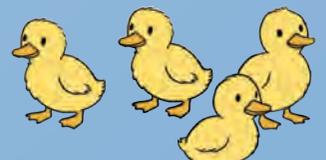
Pawter laid on his belly and kept himself low.
He said to Raccoon, “Grab my fishing pole!”

Raccoon understood and grabbed on to it quick.
Pawter pulled him in slowly, that did the trick.

“Pawter you saved me. How were you so calm?”
“I knew not to jump in, ’cuz that would be wrong.

By reaching out to you from the dock,
I can pull you back safely to where you fell off.”

Raccoon dried his fur and said, “What should we do?”
“Let’s keep on fishing until we catch a few!”





Be aware when water's there!

Yell "Help!"
Throw them a floaty.

Don't jump in.
Reach with
a tool.
Just don't swim.



Pause for Pawter Rule #5:

HELP OTHERS FROM THE SIDE



Water Safety Prompts:

1. What is the first thing you do if you see someone who needs help in the water?
2. Should you ever go in the water to help someone?
3. How do you help others from the side?

Answers:

1. The first thing you do is yell, “HELP!” to get the attention of a grown-up or lifeguard.
2. No! Never go in the water to help. A scared swimmer might pull you under. Always help from the side where it’s safe.
3. If you see someone who needs help in the water, call out, “HELP!” If no one comes, help from the side using a tool — something long to reach or something floaty to throw. If you’re reaching, lay on your belly so you don’t get pulled in. Tell the person, “Stay calm and grab on.”

PAUSE FOR



Pawter in the Water's

5 LIFE SAVING RULES

Rule #1:

**NEVER SWIM ALONE,
ALWAYS ASK SOMEONE GROWN**

Rule #2:

**IF YOU FALL IN,
TURN BACK AND SWIM**

Rule #3:

**IF YOU NEED A REST,
BACK FLOAT IS BEST**

Rule #4:

**LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER,
HANDS OFF OF ONE ANOTHER**

Rule #5:

HELP OTHERS FROM THE SIDE



pawterinthewater.com



Be aware when water's there!





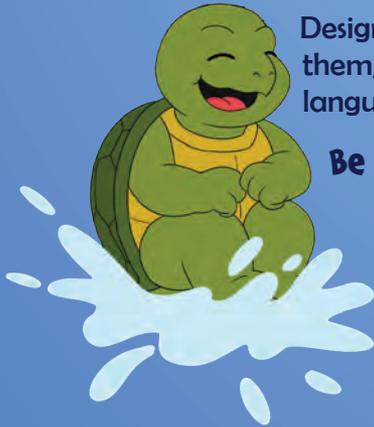
Pawter in the Water

is a powerful water safety movement created to help protect children around water. Drowning is preventable, yet it remains the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 and the second cause of accidental death for children ages 5-14.



Pawter is a curious puppy who learns and teaches 5 simple, life saving rules through playful adventures, rhyming, and repetition. Using positive, empowering messaging, Pawter helps children build awareness

before they ever enter the water, giving them tools they can remember and use in real life situations.



Designed for young children and the adults who care for them, Pawter in the Water equips families with a shared language for water safety and reminds them to...

Be aware when water's there!

“Pawter in the Water will be a great tool to add to the toolbox of Drowning Prevention ideas for parents and swim instructors. Making learning fun is a fabulous way to ingrain the key messages of safety on, near or in the water.”



-Clara Reinhardt, Drowning Prevention Advocate & Swim Education Specialist

ISBN: 978-1-962081-45-0



9 781962 081450

THE PRESS AT Cal Poly Humboldt.

Cal Poly Humboldt

Digital Commons @ Cal Poly Humboldt

Fiction and Poetry

The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt

Spring 2-10-2026

Pawter in the Water: Rhyming Stories about Water Safety

Angie Baker

Calli Brennan

Joe Baker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/fiction>
