

### **My information**

My name is Lissia Laehn, single mom of 3 kids ages 9, 7, 6. I found a summer sitter/nanny that is 15, I trust, and has babysitting and CPR training. I purchased a family pool pass with the intention of my nanny taking my kids to the pool. Her family also purchased a pass so she could take the kids. Because my youngest is 6, he needs someone with him at the pool and because my nanny is 15 she's not old enough. I don't feel that it's fair for one of my children to miss out of swimming all summer. What fun is summer without the pool?

### **Other Facts**

-You can be 15 and a lifeguard.

-American Red Cross Babysitting Training course, a nationally recognized course, is recommended for ages 11-15, the primary babysitting age range.

-Jen Hartman, Faribault County Human Services, said it is recommended that 11 and under should not baby sit, 12-15 can baby sit for up to 12 hours and 16+ can baby sit for 24+ hours.

-If updates were made, each patron should be required to sign a new guidelines information sheet. I did not sign one of these when I purchased my pass.

-The Daily Schedule and Fees sheets has a Babysitter passed list on it for \$30 but does NOT have an age referred to with it.

### **Other Area Pools ages/rules**

-Wells, MN just featured on KEYC news last week. Babysitters must be 12. Children under 5 need an adult 18 or older, 5 or older can have a babysitter.

-Fairmont Aquatic Park has NO minimum age or babysitter age requirements. It's up to each parent to decide the age their child is able to come unattended.

-Swea City, IA Babysitters must be 12. Children 6 and under need a babysitter, 7 and older may come alone.

-Bricelyn, MN has NO minimum age or babysitter age requirements. It's up to each parent to decide the age their child is able to come unattended.

-Valley Fair Soak City has NO minimum age or babysitter age requirements. It's up to each parent to decide the age their child is able to come unattended. They do have height requirements on some slides and rides.

## Facebook Comments with a post regarding 16 year age

**Nicolle 'Birk' Mutschler** Wells just started a rule that the kid has to be 12 or older to watch a 6 year old. That is young in my opinion but I think some 15 year olds should be considered. Maybe on a case by case basis but that might get hard to manage. But maybe in this transition period? I know some families that hired summer nannies with the idea of spending time at the pool but they are only 15 (but very responsible). Obviously if the nanny has to watch multiple kids of multiple ages that gets tough. But a 15 year old watching a 5 year old? I would think that would be ok. I suppose you have to start somewhere though.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [1 hr](#) · [Edited](#)

**Ellen Poole Roiger** 12 is a more reasonable age.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [1 hr](#)

**Hannah Bressler** Just my opinion but last summer I had my nephew was 12 watch Myles at the pool and I feel like he is very responsible.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [1 hr](#)

**Amy Kubik** 16 is the age I stopped babysitting because I had a job. It's going to be hard to find 16 year olds (or older!) to babysit ☐

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [5](#) · [47 mins](#)

**Lindsay Mensing** I started lifeguarding when I was 15. Seems unreasonable to be able to have 15 year old lifeguards but have to be 16 to babysit at the pool.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [10](#) · [41 mins](#)

**Tina Fast Prescher** We have a 14 year old sitter she would only watch my 4 year old I totally trust her at pool she plays with him and not stuck to phone. I think 13-14 is more reasonable for 1 kid

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [36 mins](#)

**Emily Hanson** I think 16 is a bit much. My sisters (16 now) have been super trustworthy with my kids for years. My idea would be 13-14 with waiver by parents that if the pool finds them not being attentive to the younger kids they lose their privilege to watch them at the pool.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [36 mins](#)

**Kathy Thate** At what age do they get their babysitting license at isn't that 12? A 15 or 16 year old is more likely to be working at the grocery store for more money so it's going to be hard to find them to take children to the pool

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#)

**Andrea Spencer** I have a 14 year old watching my 6 year old. I feel a 14 year old is very capable to watch my 1 child because she is in the water with her and having fun with her. And at the same time letting my daughter play with her friends that are there! I am much more concerned with the fact that a SEVEN yr old can be at the pool ALONE! Aren't the 7-10 yr olds at more risk and needing more "babysitting" by the lifeguards?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [19 mins](#)

**Sara 'Eckhardt' Hauskins** You should ask to see your signed copy of the Blue a Earth Community Pool guidelines, it does state on the downloadable copy, you must be age 16, but I know I did not sign an updated copy informing of the change. On the actual season pass form, it says nothing about age restrictions. If they passed and updated new guidelines then all patrons of the pool should have signed an update informing of any changes to the guidelines.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [5 mins](#)

**Alissa Granillo** I would gladly go if I didn't have a softball game...I have a 15 year old that is well capable watching my 5 soon to be 6 year old...I think it should be 14 or 15 not 16!!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Just now](#)

**Raina Northwick-Juba** I understand the struggles that the pool has with inattentive babysitters or parents for that matter. I am not sure that there is a perfect number for an age. Maturity has no assigned age! If there are concerns then those individuals should be addressed and asked to leave instead of punishing others.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [12](#) · [2 hrs](#)

**Elizabeth Stallman** I have a great 15 years old baby sitter that is better than most of the 16 and above babysitters I have seen laying out while the child(ren) are playing.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [2 hrs](#)

**Carolyn Kaiser** The babysitters that my 6 year old would be going w/to the pool - I trust them implicitly and would never send him/them there otherwise! Neither one of them are over 16! We had plans like you, Lissia, to send the babysitter

w/our son to the pool once a week this summer so he could get some swimming in!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 hr

**Kerrisa Behr** Last year I pulled a little girl up from under the water, both of her parents were within 4-5 feet away. I think 16 is a bit extreme...young girls are far more attentive to small children I think. I'd go w 12.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 hr

**Allison Mastin** Let me know what you find out. Autum watches landen a few days a week and she can't take him, but she can take my brothers boy who is only 5 months older. Makes no sense.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 54 mins

### **Recommendations**

I believe there are some acceptable options.

- Lower the age to 14 with no other criteria.
- Lower the age to 14 with child parental waiver signed and loss of privilege acknowledgement for the sitter.
- Lower the age to 14 with child AND sitter parental waiver signed and loss of privilege acknowledgement for the sitter.
- Lower the age to 14 and require that the American Red Cross Babysitting Training course has been successfully taken.
- Lower the age to 14 but only allowed to be babysitting 1 or 2 children 6 and under.

With any of these recommendations I would also include that the sitter must be within arms reach of the child. Implying the sitter must be IN the water actively watching and participating with the child.

### **In Summary**

I feel that it's the pools responsibility to have an effect some rules/guidelines and that it is by no means the lifeguard's job to be a babysitter. It is my hope that you re-evaluate the babysitter age based on the points and information presented.

## Mateja Lane

Hello, I'm Mateja Lane and i'm here to get your acceptance to babysit kids 6 and younger. I started my summer of 2012 getting my training to be a babysitter. I was 12 at the time dedicating myself to a 4 year old all summer. We went to the pool, she had a life jacket on, she jumped to be we swam everything was okay. Since my first summer babysitting I have babysat for 7 different families. Summer of 2013 I nannie in okoboji on a lake for a 4 and 6 year old. I swam with them and was very attentive the whole time. Then Every summer since then i watch about 2 or 3 families for the summer. Jenna Hansen was my first big babysitting job. I started watching her daughter when she was a little after 2. I make very good relationships with all the kids I babysit. I make sure they have fun, without breaking rules. I have taken her to the pool and lakes. I think taking kids to the pool is a responsibility, but growing up at the pool and taking my brother i am well experienced. I make sure if i am in one pool they are too. I make sure they are hydrated, well fed. I understand some people are not as responsible as others. But I am, I take my job seriously. This job is no different than my other job at Jubas. I have responsibility and i take care of it and make sure people are pleased. So i'm asking out of the kindness of my heart to let me keep doing my job and get accepted. I am certified in Minnesota and Arizona for the heimlich remover, and know a little CPR. Thank you for your time.