According to Nordic definition a person is able to swim, if he or she can swim 200 metres of which 50 metres on the back. In the study the information is collected of children’s ability to swim and where they learned the skill. The data is gathered of 6300 12-year old Finns and 367 schools. 80% of the children report they can swim according to definition. The self-reported results are compared to teacher-controlled ones. The rate is 90%, at schools where the skill is tested. The main reason for the difference is that children are not aware their skill level and under-report it. This result was also confirmed at a smaller experiment. 55% of children informed that they learned to swim taught by their parents. One fourth answered that they learned at a swim school. 8% learned the skill at school. One percent of children cannot swim at all. Additionally the teachers are asked, if teaching is taught at school. Currently 10% of the teachers informed that no swimming teaching is organised at their school. Causes to situation are, that there is not enough money or the nearest swimming hall is located far away or swimming is taught to younger children only.