

Community

Couple one of many starting swimming early

BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

For Lisa and Frank Turco, a concern about water safety has led to an earlier than usual swimming indoctrination for their two pre-school aged children.

The Turcos, who operate a farm in the Gormley area, have been taking their daughters Francesca and Bianca to swimming and water safety lessons since the tots were less than six months old.

Francesca, who is now three and a half, rewarded her parents' perseverance by demonstrating she has grasped a modified version of the front crawl this summer.

For Bianca, 18 months, basic breath retention training and constant practice jumping into the open arms of a waiting adult have taught her the basics of drown proofing.

Lisa Turco was determined that her children would develop the same water awareness she had as a child in the Windsor area. "I grew up around the water, and we were always at the beach," she said. "I was taking swimming lessons when I was one and a half."

While there may not be much danger of the children falling into water, at home, Lisa wanted to be able to relax when her children were visiting her mother, who has a pool. The family also has a condominium on the ocean in Florida.

Lisa started out taking Francesca to a water babies program in Vaughan when the child was just under six months old. The once a week session was designed to help infants feel comfortable in the water, while showing them that the water is a fun environment in which to play.

This summer, the child was enrolled in private swimming lessons for the first time. "She really took off" said Lisa. "She puts her head under the water on her own, and she follows instructions. She's treading water, and she's now swimming six strokes at a time before coming up for air. She's learned endurance, and can now swim all the way down the pool."

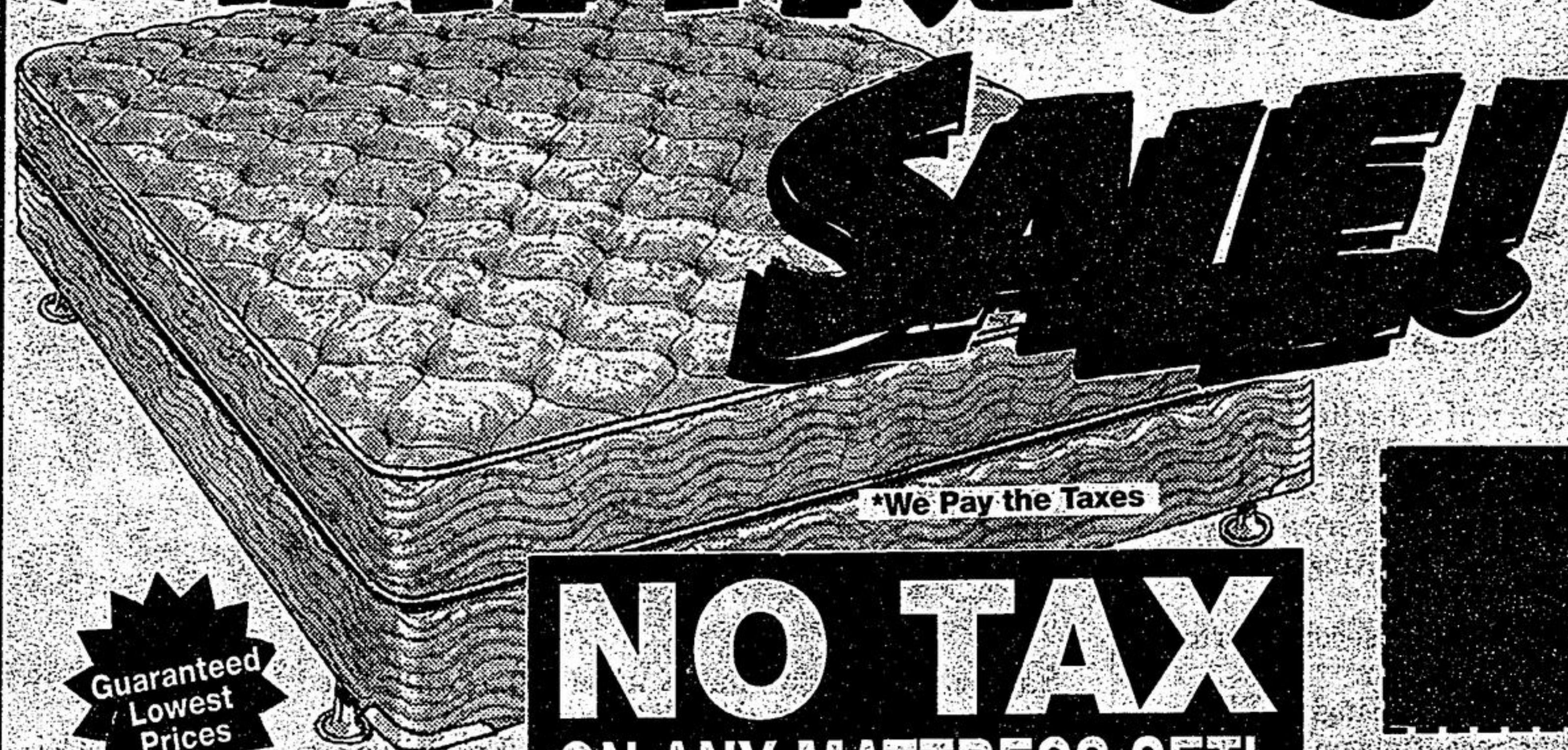
According to Lisa, Bianca is

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