

# Chicago Tribune

## Smart Solutions: No-Snag Goggles

New design easy on hair.

William Hageman For Tribune Newspapers

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Anyone with kids has experienced it: You try to put swim goggles on your child, and he or she yipes as the strap pulls on hair.

With three kids taking swimming lessons, Karen Toby knew the problem all too well. "They shed a lot of tears," says Toby, who lives in the north suburbs. "I would gingerly put the straps on, but they complained a lot." She shopped around for a fix and discovered there wasn't one, so she took matters into her own hands.

"I borrowed a friend's sewing machine, ordered some neoprene and started sewing."

She tried different materials and different sizes, then had her children test them at the pool and followed their suggestions.

The result is the Gogglesmate.

It's a piece of fabric that wraps around the strap and prevents the hair-pulling. Not only that, it keeps goggles afloat. And the Gogglesmate (\$7.99) comes in a variety of colors and designs, so kids can find one that appeals to them.

"Parents tell me they'll be at a pool and because of the bright colors they're able to spot their child," Toby says.

The Gogglesmate can be ordered through [gogglesmate.com](http://gogglesmate.com), where there's also a video demonstration of how it works.

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