

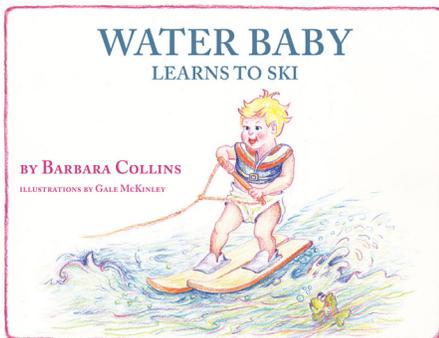


# news release

AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL  
427 Wade Hampton Blvd  
Greenville, SC 29617  
Ph. 864.235.2434  
Fx. 864. 235.2491  
[www.ambassador-international.com](http://www.ambassador-international.com)

MEDIA CONTACT: Alison Storm  
864.235.2434  
[media@emeraldhouse.com](mailto:media@emeraldhouse.com)

## **Children's Book Shares the True Story of a Water Skiing Baby South Carolina author bases the tale on her son, a champion water skier**



RELEASE DATE: May 2013  
TRADE Hardback  
PAGES: 32  
PRICE: \$14.99  
ISBN: 9781620202166

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, there are more than 74 million recreational boaters and more than 10 million water skiers in the US. But very few of those water skiers are babies. In her new children's book *Water Baby Learns to Ski* (Ambassador International; May 2013; \$14.99, hardback) author Barbara Collins shares the true story of a nine-month-old who learned to water ski.

Collins based the book on her own son. Collins' husband Dean pulled the baby on trainer skis in the family's den at just nine months old. Before his first birthday he was "skiing" in the front yard and at 19 months began skiing behind a boat. "He began to compete when he was just six," remembers Collins. "Water skiing is something my family has done for more than four decades." Collins' son was ranked among the top water skiers in the country, winning Nationals in California at age 13 and competing for Clemson University during college. "We love the sport of water skiing because it is family oriented," says the author. "We practiced together every day."

The illustrations in *Water Baby Learns to Ski* are based off of actual photos of Collins' son. It's the first book in the Water Baby series. The next installment is expected to be released in 2014. "My goal is to share my family's love of the water and the outdoors with young readers," explains Collins, a former elementary school teacher. "It's an inspirational and fun story for children."

**About the Author:** Barbara Collins, a native of Anderson, South Carolina, is a retired elementary school teacher specializing in reading. She has a BA and a Masters degree in education from Clemson University.

**About the Illustrator:** *Water Baby Learns to Ski* is illustrated by award-winning artist Gale McKinley. McKinley is an artist-in-residence with the South Carolina Arts Commission.

To learn more about the author and her book *Water Baby Learns to Ski*, visit <http://waterbabyandmore.com/>. For interview requests, please contact Alison Storm at [media@emeraldhouse.com](mailto:media@emeraldhouse.com).

**ABOUT THE PUBLISHER:** Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit [www.ambassador-international.com](http://www.ambassador-international.com). You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out [Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl](https://www.facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl).

### **Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:**

1. What led you to write *Water Baby Learns to Ski*?
2. Why did you decide to turn your son's story into a children's book now?
3. What else do you have planned in the Water Baby series?
4. What advice do you have for others who want to get involved in the sport of water skiing?
5. Does your family still spend time out on the water?



# author bio

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## BARBARA COLLINS

*Author of "Water Baby Learns to Ski"*



Barbara Collins is a native of Anderson, South Carolina. She is a retired elementary teacher specializing in reading. She has a B.A. and a Masters degree in education from Clemson University and 33 years teaching experience. Her family has been involved in the sport of water skiing for 40 years on a Regional, National and International level.

### Connect with Barbara Collins



<http://waterbabyandmore.com/>

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