
SwimSafer, Have fun, Swim Safe

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Background/Introduction Program

In 2009 it was determined that an integrated program assimilating the merits of the learn to swim and the National Survival Swimming award (NASSA) into a single national framework.

SwimSafer comprises a progressive six-stage program structure incorporating elements of swimming, water survival and rescue skills progressively in each stage.

SwimSafer programme was kicked off on 5 July 2010 in 24 SSC pools.

Objectives

SwimSafer programme was designed with the intention of imparting water survival skills as a safeguard against aquatic accidents, such as drowning.

Target

SwimSafer is a National Program aimed at all ages, especially children ages 7–12.

Implementation

Singapore Sports Council, SwimSafer department is tasked to champion and drive the key deliverables of imparting personal water safety knowledge and skills through the SwimSafer programme. SwimSafer is a six stage progressive personal survival and water safety programme.

Since March 2010, SwimSafer has certified 779 instructors in the SwimSafer programme. Officially the program began on 5 July 2010, with over 25,000 children to date participating in the programme.

Each stage 1,2,3 and Bronze, Silver and Gold has an achievement award as well as badge for Stage 1,2,3 and achievement award and badge and pin for bronze, silver and gold.

Results

To evaluate the effectiveness of SwimSafer we have set Key Performance Indicator. The introduction of a knowledge component, personal survival skills and a ratio of 1–10, the quality of instruction will be raised and improve the standard of participants significantly from its predecessor programmes. In terms of results, we expected students who have undergone SwimSafer to be better equipped with the right sets of skills to handle unexpected and adverse situations in water.

We have analyzed the programme every three months for changes, improvements or challenges. We will be conducting a post-implentation review (PIR) one year after implementation to evaluate programme's effectiveness.

Discussion

SwimSafer being the National personal water safety and survival programme will continue with continual improvements.

Conclusion

SwimSafer has had its challenges during the five months of implementation. With continual improvements, instructor training and professional development the quality of the programme will be sustainable.

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