

Observation skills in water competence learning processes – A didactic challenge

Associate Professor Lillan Madsen¹

University Of Copenhagen¹

Students of exercise and sport and outdoors instructors need to be qualified to develop and lead activities in and on the water with different target groups. This makes it necessary to achieve observable 'concrete competences' in the water, including the attainment of knowledge about oneself and others while being active in water under a variety of conditions. In a global context teaching in swimming for all with specific focus on open water competences needs a broad variation of experiences combined with special observation and communication skills to develop quality in the Learning Process of Basic Swimming and Lifesaving Competences. The relationship between the 'non swimmer', 'water activities' and 'child development' aspects are crucial. This is explored by asking questions such as: Who – is the non-swimmer? What – characteristics do you observe about the non-swimmer's behaviour in the water? Why – do you think this appears so? And Where – is the possible 'space' for communication/ exchange of knowledge between the new-swimmer and the teacher, and last, When – is the right time to activate the specific child's learning process.

The main focus is on the intensive use of observation skills and IT-video to support communication and motivate reflection on particular behaviour of practice. Some simple methods to use observation skills between swimmers arouse their curiosity and encourage understanding of the relationship between the child and the water. Examples from learning processes using simple video analyzes and integration of stills in reflection and feedback training are presented. Hopefully this project will inspire useful practical tools to help future swimming teachers in achieving relevant competences and motivate them to be curious about the experiences of the individual non-swimmer. The project offers solutions to the question of how a study process can be organized to achieve this necessary practical knowledge (the desired and necessary competences).

The project is connected to TIES – Technology and Innovation of Educating swimmers. Leonardo da Vinci – Life Long Learning program. The poster will present brief examples from specific parts of the student's course work processes with well known problematic challenges regarding basic competences in the water.

The project looks at observations skills integrated in the learning process from different perspectives, different target groups (children with special needs – a new chance to take part in a learning process), specific concepts and environments.

Corresponding Author

Associate Professor Lillan Madsen
Department of Exercise and Sport Science
University of Copenhagen
Noerre Alle 51
Copenhagen Denmark 2200
Email: lmadsen@ifi.ku.dk
Telephone: +45 45859904