
The international language of swimming

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During the past three decades we have been teaching swimming and water safety to many throughout the world. The most common language used for education and training is often English and as such when information is presented often key points are lost in the translation and also in the interpretation. Even when we use translators at the courses we still have issues with the language and what the interpreter thinks that the presenter said, so even greater confusion occurs.

Luckily as a result of teaching the very young and many who do not speak any English, we have learned that language is not required to get people swimming and safer in the water. We will explore this and look at examples of how gestures and set imagery can overcome any language barrier.

It is important that we use demonstration, participation and physical manipulation to ensure that the learner has the necessary information to practice the skills and ultimately learn the skills so they become competent and safer.

In many situations we see “language” being used as a barrier and with recent developments in the “key learning sequences” we have been able to overcome this barrier and teach effectively on all continents in a host of different languages.

The session will provide insight into this and establish key parameters and explore the sequences that allow us to introduce complex motor skills to the learner whether they are a child or adult and regardless of race or language.

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