

NO MORE TEARS

A CHILD CENTERED APPROACH TO TEACHING SWIMMING



A CHILD CENTERED APPROACH TO TEACHING

TEACHER CENTERED – Control over class and material.

STUDENT CENTERED – Lead activities.

PERSONALIZED – Make own choices.

CONCERNS



This is a common concern for most parents of 4 to 5 year-olds. For some children, the child centered approach is thought to be an easier transition over traditional methods. The environment is more open and free in comparison to traditional, academic settings that are structured with a firm daily routine. In a child centered kindergarten classroom, students are allowed to learn at their own speed with the teacher's role as a partner in their journey.

The Compass school

3 TYPES OF APPROACHES

Water Acclimatization approach – The emphasis of the instructor is simply to have the child enjoy the water. Positive approach, though there is min advancement in terms of skill acquisition.

Forceful, skill-centered Approach: - the instructor forces skills on the toddler, with little or no regard given to the child's readiness or happiness. The toddler is treated "like an animal" than a "fragile young human being". The toddler's "well being" is tragically in the hands of someone who claims or even thinks they are doing something good for the child.

Progressive, child centered Approach: The instructor teaches swimming and safety skills but they are taught in progressions, and the approach is gentle. The child's happiness is priority. The philosophy is to produce a healthy, positive experience. It's a child-paced, child focused approach.

Negative experience

Can hinder the child's self esteem and often turns children off swimming. A child centered-approach allows a child to at the child's pace.

Jim Reiser

Recipient of the Virginia Hunt Newman Award

Child centered: Child comes first. Gentle guiding to help child achieve her goals. Toddlers learning different from older children. Play, song and imagination is used to keep a child interested. Small in stature and need to be respected.

Skills based: attractive to parents because it's easier to see "swim Lessons" when an instructor is teaching specific body movements. Instructor will force the skill on a child and will even say "a little crying now is better than have your child drown. And never hear they cry again". Violates the dignity and trust of a child.



HAVING FUN - THAT WHATS IT IS ALL ABOUT.

CONDUCTING A LESSON

FOCUS ON:

* Maximize Practice Time- practise is the mother of learning. Should be primary concern for every teach.

* Goal - Design a lesson that helps to perform a skill appropriate to the age of the child or group.

* Practise - Not just practice, but quality practice, to learn the skill properly.

*Engagement - being able to process and partake in the activity.

*Organise/Management – instruction is too long and not enough time spent in practise.

*Appropriate learning – the skill must be challenging but within the reach of every child in the class.

*Integrate – play incorporated in the skill makes it more meaningful.

*Skill repetition - skill are learnt through practice over a period of time. Spacing the practice of the skill throughout the lesson.

CONCLUSION:

Todswim is a project of SWIMMING SOUTH AFRICA.

