

NEWS

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Lessons help save little Miller

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**SAFETY FIRST:** Renee Webb, left, with Miller and his water safety instructor Sue La Fauce, from Aquatic Kidz Swim School.

RENEE Webb feared the worst when she collapsed and dropped her six-month old son Miller face-first into a bath. But thanks to his water safety lessons the baby survived. Now Mrs Webb is urging other parents to take young children to these life-saving classes. "If Miller hadn't had the lessons, this could have been so different," she said. Mrs Webb, of Narangba, said she felt a sharp pain while bathing Miller and his sister Kaele, 2. After calling 000, Mrs Webb lost control of her arms as she tried to take Miller out of the bath, dropping him face first into the water. But Miller appears to have remembered his water safety lessons and held his breath. Mrs Webb estimates he was under water for about 15 seconds before she recovered sufficiently to pull him out.

"Miller had a big smile on his face when I picked him up," she said. "He thought it was just another swimming lesson." Miller was cleared of any injuries by ambulance officers and Mrs Webb has made a full recovery from what turned out to be a gall bladder attack. "It takes less time than that for a baby to get water on their lungs and cause some serious damage or drown," she said. Sue La Fauce, owner and instructor of Aquatic Kidz Swim School at Morayfield, where Miller has his lessons, said Mrs Webb's incident highlighted the need for children to learn water survival skills. "The sooner children begin lessons the safer they'll be," she said. "What we are mainly working on is breath control and preparing the baby for an accidental submersion," she said. Mrs La Fauce said children could start programs when they were four weeks old, but it was never too late to begin to learn the necessary survival skills. "A bath, a dam or even something like a dog bowl can be dangerous for children who are crawling and walking," she said.

COMMENTS

DISPLAYING (1) COMMENTS

**Karen Wells** writes:

I was an Austswim teacher many moons ago and was totally thrilled that my children put their very young babies into swimming lessons - I am Millers Oma and I am so so grateful that he knew what to do :)

Posted on 19 Oct 10 at 02:12pm