

COMMUNITY

## Swim skills helped save Caboolture toddler's life



Erica Baigrie | 4th Feb 2015 8:39 AM



WATER CONFIDENT: Lilly Riordan is watched on by her mother Angie Cole.

**Vicki Wood**

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WHEN a toddler falls into a pool, you don't often hear they've saved themselves, but that is what Lilly Riordan did.

The two-and-a-half- year-old was playing in her grandmother's pool when she fell in.

She held her breath as she was falling and swam to the edge and pulled herself to the pool's shallow end.

Mother Angie Tole was both scared and relieved when she heard of the accident.

"It's just good to know if she got through the fence somehow and decided to get in the pool, it would be okay," she said.

Angie enrolled Lilly in swimming lessons when she was six months old and has never regretted it.

"At the early stages, she didn't like going into the bath or water at all so it took her a while to get used to it, but now she loves it," she said.

The working mum said the incident brings home how important swimming lessons are for children.

"I guess I wasn't really appreciative of them but when this happened, I was really happy about it," she said.

"I really think all parents need to do swimming lesson with their kids."

Lilly learnt how to swim at the Aquatic Kidz Swim School Morayfield and owner and operator Sue La Fauce said she hopes more parents are encouraged to get their children swimming lessons after Lilly's story.

"A lot of parents have this mind set, 'we don't have a pool, why should we get swimming lesson?' they don't realise it could be at the grandparents or friends or even in the bath," Ms Fauce said.

"With our classes we only have a max of three students and the whole program is built around

survival."

Ms Fauce said it takes commitment for a child to learn survival skills and be confident in the water.

"If they come to one lesson a week, it basically takes commitment over a long period of time," she said.

**CabooltureNews**



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