

TEACHERS/ASSESSMENTS

Our Teachers

At Seadragonz we pride ourselves on the quality of our teachers. This enables us to provide our customers with the best of WA Teachers. The teachers undergo many tests and interviews before being selected for employment, as well as meeting the usual selection criteria. Teachers also align with the values at Seadragonz in delivering the classes in a caring, loving and encouraging manner.

Minimum qualifications requirements

- Swim Australia Teacher Qualification or AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety
- Resuscitation Qualification
- Senior First Aid Certificate
- Working with Children Check Card
- Bronze Medallion or Swim Teacher Rescue Award

Seadragonz operates on a continuous monthly basis. This means that there is no requirement for a re-enrolment process.

As the programmes are based on the individual student's progression and development within the levels, this means that once the student has been recognised as fulfilling all of the assessment criteria within their level, an assessment will be scheduled.

Starting new levels mean a change of class. This can also result in having to change to a new time, new day or a different teacher. Whilst we understand this can be a daunting experience, think of it as a positive step in your child's swimming and life experience. They have achieved an awesome step in their “learn to swim journey”, and with encouragement and support are now learning to become resilient and adapt to ongoing changes around us/them on an everyday basis.

The purpose of swimming lessons or any learning environment is to progress, and with progression comes an upwards movement which will ALWAYS means a change of class. *This is why your child is here – “to learn and progress in their skills”.*

As our classes are small, we recognise that children, parents and teachers all form a special or a close bond. When you and your child have a great relationship with the teacher we acknowledge that it can make it difficult to move to someone else and start the process again. You may request to have the same teacher, but this is subject to availability.

Why changing teachers is a positive experience

- Preparation for similar experiences in any educational environment where teacher change is a necessity and the norm.
- Teaching resilience and adaptability to ever-changing world around us by embracing changes.
- Different personalities, characteristics and skills of a teacher may better suit or identify strengths and weakness in a student and enhance learning.

A new teacher = new inspiration to both parents and children.

Seadragonz takes pride that our teachers are great at what they do. They undergo numerous training sessions and Professional Development, so that the standard of teaching is the same across the board but appreciate, they all have different personalities. Sometimes the transition to a new teacher (especially for young children) can be difficult, so it may help in the initial stages, for a parent to get back in the water with a child or sit on the edge with them until they are ready to try on their own. Parents can assist by remaining positive to changes and communicate with their child, what to expect with the change of class in a positive way, remembering negative feelings, actions or nervousness are easily sensed by the students.

Seadragonz will always do their best to accommodate an exact day/time which is convenient for you and your child's class, but should option A not be available, we suggest you take option B in the interim, whilst you are wait-listed for the preferred time. The wait-list is for existing customers only.

Assessments

Assessment criteria for every level is available for parents to view. This can be found on posters on pool deck at Seadragonz or the link can be found on our website. Should you have any questions relating to the levels, please speak to the reception staff or deck angels, as they will be happy to answer any questions.

If you would like your child assessed, please speak to someone at reception who will organise this for the following week. In this scenario, we request that your child doesn't

know or be alerted about the up and coming assessment. This will avoid any unnecessary pressure for the child to perform and can result in them not swimming as well, should they know someone is watching them! Swimming lessons need to be a fun experience. Applying pressure, can make lessons unpleasant for the child and then they “hate” swimming lessons and “won’t” learn, thereby defeating the whole purpose of bringing them to class. Seadragonz policy is to assess students discreetly, avoiding having nervous students or adding unnecessary pressure on the student to perform on the day. At the time of these assessment, should your child not meet the level requirement, the reasons why, will be explained by either the deck angel or the child’s teacher.

Notably, in any learning environment children progress at their own individual pace, some quicker than others, just the same as some children develop faster than others do. Appreciate the forward steps that your child makes and don’t apply the pressure to go faster. It is important that parents understand that as students advance, at some point they may reach a ‘plateau’ – it’s just like growing. *“Some children will progress fast and come to an abrupt halt and some will seem to take forever to get there and then take off in a hurry. This all depends on the child’s ‘aquatic readiness.’”*