



## WATCH AROUND WATER

Pines Forest Aquatic Centre is a Watch Around Water endorsed Aquatic Centre. Competent lifeguards acting responsibly provide an important safety feature, but they are not intended to, and cannot be expected to replace the close supervision of parents which is required for many children. Public awareness needs to ensure that adults in the community understand that supervision of children in the water must be direct, competent and alert.

The following policies for supervision are implemented at Pines Forest Aquatic Centre:

- Children under 5 years old must be accompanied into the centre by a responsible person over the age of 16 and supervised within arms' reach, at all times. The responsible person must be in the water within arms' reach of the child.
- Children under 5 years old may be requested to wear a wrist-band by Pines Forest Aquatic Centre staff to help identify their age while swimming.
- Children under 10 years old must be constantly supervised by a responsible person over the age of 16 while in the centre. The responsible person must position himself or herself to have a clear view of the child with no physical or structural barriers between them and the child.
- Children under 10 years old will not be admitted without an appropriate parent/guardian.
- For children 10 years and older, parents must use their knowledge of the child's swimming ability to determine the level of supervision required.
- Groups will not be admitted where the number of parents/guardians supervising a group of children under 5 years exceeds the ratio of 1:4.
- Groups will not be admitted where the number of parents/guardians supervising a group of children under 10 years exceeds the ratio of 1:10.
- Children under 5 years will not be admitted without a full fee paying parent/guardian who is prepared to enter the water in line with the required policies, when needed.
- Unsupervised children will be removed from the water and placed in a safe area until collected by the parent/guardian.

- An unsupervised child of poor swimming ability regardless of age will be removed from the water by a staff member if the staff member is concerned for the safety of that child.
- When children are under the supervision of a teacher in a structured lesson, a parent/guardian must still maintain constant visual supervision.

For any further questions about the Watch Around Water program, please see the following website: <http://www.watcharoundwater.org.au/faq/>