

Swimming lessons for children and rescuing skills for adults – Ways forward

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One of the major causes that lead to high rates of child drowning in Viet is children's lack of swimming skills. Teaching swimming and developing skills among children is an effective approach to bring about reductions in the number of drowning incidents.

According to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), research into drowning incidents in the Mekong Delta showed that 84 per cent of the children who drowned did not know how to swim. In the last nine years, the Department of Public Sports and Gymnastics – Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism organised hundreds of training for trainers courses in swimming and rescuing, especially in the Mekong Delta Region where there is a high rate of child drowning. As a result, more than 5,700 swimming coaches/trainers have been trained with a final view to training other adults and children how to swim at their home provinces.

Swimming lessons have been provided to children aged 6–15. In the upcoming year, the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism will strengthen its linkage with other relevant ministries and Government at all levels for resource allocation, especially at local levels for developing swimming skills for children. Intensive swimming courses will be recommended to be undertaken during summer vacation by the Ministry in conjunction with Ministry of Education, MOLISA and Youth Union.

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