

Welcome to the Little Dippers Baby Swim Center progress page. Here you will find information relating to our Baby Swim Center, currently being built in Brighton.

The Concept.

Little Dippers has been running its Baby Swimming classes for nearly 20 years now. We have seen in excess of 20,000 babies complete our unique program which can teach even the youngest baby to love the water.

Little Dippers have always struggled to find suitable swimming pools to run its classes. Local Authority pools are usually too cold, warm water pools in gyms, clubs, hotels and centers usually do not allow sole usage, so more often than not we look for suitable pools in Hospitals, Special Needs Schools and even sometimes in private homes.

By building our own unique center we believe we can have more control over our company and teach more babies the benefits of Baby Swimming.

Our New Center

Work started on our new Center about 2 years ago. We looked at numerous locations finally settling where it all began in the late 1980, Brighton.

The site is right in the center of town (North Laines) and has great access, being just around the corner from nearly all bus routes, the main line train station and several town center car parks.

The buildings footprint is approximately 250m² on two floors with the pool being located on the Ground Floor level. Ideally we were looking for something in the region of twice the floor space, but by working hard with an amazing Architectural team we feel we have achieved the best design for the building and used its full potential.

Costs.

This project is being self funded by Little Dippers and we are proud to be the first Baby Swim School in the UK to build its own pool at a cost of around £300,000.

We undertook this project because we wanted our customers to have a quality experience when attending Baby Swimming classes, and being able to have full control means we will hopefully achieve this.

Current Status

We are pleased to say that we are in the final weeks of construction.

So far we have removed around 50m³ materials from the building, most of which came from the excavation for our 6m x 5m pool.

The pool frame has been built, reinforced, rendered and waterproofed and we aim to do a test fill on Monday 22nd February 2008.

If all goes well we can empty and dry so that tiling can commence late next week.

Internally 95% of the blockwork has been completed for the female, male and disabled changing rooms. We have also built internal walls to the pool plant and bathroom. With the blockwork due to complete within the next 2-3 days we should have a base to render the following week.

The pool plant room will be one of the most sophisticated plant rooms around. The pool has been designed with 4 complex levels of sanitation and filtration which enables us to run the pool virtually Chlorine Free. And by using advanced technology like ZeoClear, U.V., Ozone, Salt and Nature2 means crystal clear water all the time.

Couple this with an advanced Air Handling System which actively recovers wasted energy, provides fresh clean air and pool hall cooling we believe we will have one of the most advanced pools in the UK.

The Very Latest (As At Sunday 17th Feb)

The site has been cleared down in preparation for the 1st Fill test.

Next week the aim will be to have most of the plumbing and electrics installed as well as some internal rendering.

Completion Date has been adjusted to 6th March 2008 with the Grand Opening set for 7th March 2008.

Interior Plan

Upon entering the building you will be in the lobby area. This is a small practical area with braches off to the changing room corridor or if just viewing a class, then direct access through to the pool.

As you walk down the corridor on your left is a small folded buggy park. The first door on your left is the disabled bathroom, which will double as a male changing room/bathroom during busy periods.

The next door on your left is the male changing room. A small but practical room with 2 wall mounted Baby Changing tables. This room can house 3-4 men and their babies.

The next door on your right is the bathroom containing a loo and a hand basin. Both men and women can use this bathroom.

The next door is off to your left and this is the main female changing room. In this room are 7 pull down changing tables for babies should they be needed, alternatively there are long thick benches suitable for baby changing.

The female changing room also has a double enclosed shower with thermostatic controls. Nice warm water all the time.

Special safety flooring is in all the changing rooms. Not only does it provide a non slip surface, but also a spongy feel should baby fall!

All the changing rooms have an "in" and "out" door, with the "out" doors giving direct access to the pool area.

The pool is approx 6m x 5m with a constant depth of 1.2m, although this can be raised slightly for photographic work.

There is a DRY viewing area where spectators can watch, but spectaors will be restricted to 1 per baby to avoid complications.

More to follow...