

CPR joins the ABCs as kids learn to save lives

CHILDREN as young as five are learning CPR in a bid to save lives.

A first-aid course for children aged five to 13 has been pioneered by two Gold Coast mothers and is being taken up by schools on the glitter strip.

Mandy Copson and Angie Price hope CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) will become as elementary as ABC for young students.

The two friends, who both hold senior first aid and advanced first aid certificates, came up with the idea after moving to the Coast from Sydney and settling on a canal estate.

"We've both got young children and with so much water on the Gold Coast, what with the ocean, canals and swimming pools, we wanted to make sure the kids had some basic knowledge and confidence if some-

thing did happen," said Ms Price, a qualified pre-school teacher.

Mrs Copson, a former senior flight attendant, said: "Just teaching a child how to place someone correctly into the recovery position could save a life."

The women said their CPR Help course was "age appropriate" and taught children basic lifesaving skills, from how to correctly use Triple O through to CPR.

Five-year-olds were not too young to learn first-aid, Mrs Price said. "Kids are fast learners and absorb things very quickly and the skills they learn will hopefully stay with them through into their teens and adulthood."

The women said the 90-minute course was accredited by Education Queensland and cost \$10 per child.

Greg Stolz



EMERGENCY skills ... Mandy Copson, left, with Luke Price, 8, and Angie Price with Brooke Copson, 10, practise their first-aid resuscitation techniques.

Picture: Paul Riley