

Water Safety - Lesson Plans

Activity 3- Water Safety Case Studies

Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes

I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others and to reduce the potential for harm when possible. **HWB 2-16a.**

I know and can demonstrate how to keep myself and others safe and how to respond in a range of emergency situations. **HWB 2-17a.**

1. Connecting the Learning - Remind the class about their water safety knowledge, in particular the different scenarios where people might get into trouble on or near water. Explain that in this lesson they are going to hear about some real cases when people were in real danger in rivers or lochs.

2. Sharing the Learning Outcomes -

- I can spot the safety messages when learning about real cases of danger in water

3. Active Learning - Use the 'Case Study' activity to display Case Study 1, then Case Study 2, a newspaper story with the headline, 'Fire Fighter pulls boy from River Isla'. Alternatively the case study could be downloaded and copies printed for the class to read. After the children have read the case study there are a few discussion questions for both articles. These can be downloaded as individual question cards for groups to discuss or the class could talk about the questions as they are displayed on the interactive whiteboard.

4. Demonstrating Understanding - Display the second case study and invite questions and discussion about the events. As an extension activity the children could rewrite Case Study 1 but this time with a happier outcome.

5. Review and Recall - Having listened to the real case studies ask the children if they have changed the way they think about water safety. If so in what way? Can they explain the safety messages from these two news stories?

Homework Task - Ask the class to look out for any water safety news stories in the media or research some in the recent past.

Resources needed:

Downloadable text of the 2 case studies.

Question cards for Case Study 1 (with answers on back or able to be folded)

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Activity 3- Water Safety - Case Study 2

Fire Fighter Pulls Boy from River Isla

A teenager rescued from the River Isla on Sunday after trying to swim to the opposite bank was lucky to escape with his life, the fire service has said. The 15-year-old from Ayrshire attempted to swim across the river close to the Coultie Bridge, near Coupar Angus, when he was swept away.

His friends called 999 and the boy was eventually rescued by firefighters who managed to reach him with a throw line. He was taken to Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, but has now been allowed home.

Tayside Fire and Rescue Service said they received a call at 1915 BST on Sunday reporting that the teenager was trapped in the water. Firefighters from Coupar Angus and Blairgowrie were joined by a specialist water rescue team from Dundee at the scene.

Tayside fire service's Rab Middlemiss said: "On arrival we found the young lad had been swept downstream." "It appeared he had attempted to swim across the river but had been carried away by the force of the water."

Although conditions appeared to be relatively benign, Mr Middlemiss said the water was deceptively cold. "The boy was in shock but managed to make his way toward the side of the river where the current was not so strong," he said.

"At this point he was extremely scared and too frightened to move."

"Our crews, who were equipped with life jackets and water throw lines, deployed up the bank.

"Eventually he managed to grab one of the lines and the firefighters then pulled him out." The teenager, who was on a weekend holiday with family members, was taken to hospital with suspected hypothermia.

Mr Middlemiss added: "Obviously the consequences of this incident could have been tragic and, with summer coming, I would really like to remind people that the force of water can catch people out."

Discussion questions:

1. Why do you think the girl jumped in?
2. Do you think she knew the dangers? Why? Why not?
3. Would you know the dangers?
4. The news report says she "got into difficulties" – what might have happened to her when she jumped into the reservoir?
5. What dangers are associated with a reservoir?
6. It is believed she was diving – why shouldn't you dive into a reservoir?
7. What would have prevented this tragic accident from happening?