

Book Reading Notes- Sami's Beach Rescue - 30 minutes

The aim of this assembly is to introduce the issue of water safety for children. The idea is to engage and inspire children with this story so that they take home the message to their families for wider discussion on how to stay safe in and around water.

Powerpoint presentation of the images from the book. Front cover up on the screen.

2 mins - Ask the children what they know about the ocean. What does it look, smell, sound and feel like? Any adjectives or key words to describe it? What animals can they find there?

2 mins - Have they ever been to the ocean? Where is their favourite beach? If they haven't been to the ocean, do they have a favourite lake or river they might have been to? Looking for children to share an experience of being in, around or on the water - in whatever format that might be.

7 mins - Read the story to the children.

Last book image slide - point to Sami and show how happy he is to be safe back on the beach with his family, planning his next adventure. We don't want the children to be afraid of the water but to be aware of the dangers in a gentle but informative way.

1 min - There are four key messages from the story - can you remember what they are? Hands up? Show the next slide - RNLI Water Safety - Stop & Think. Stay Together. Float to Live and Call 999. This is the key safety messaging that the RNLI would like children to take home and remember. Let's go through each point.

3 mins - Stop & Think - Check the Dangers - This picture shows a busy beach scene. Think of your favourite beach you like going to - when it is busy, lots of things can be happening at once. Let's have a look at this picture - in pairs or groups can you see how many dangers you can spot. You have 2 minutes to look carefully and your time starts now! ...

3 min - After 2 minutes, bring the children back and go through some of their answers. Show the next slide of answers and see how many they got right.

3 mins - Stay Together checklist of things to do at the beach to make sure you are prepared. This is an obvious one for children to understand. In the same way they wouldn't go off by themselves on the land, you never go off by yourself in the water. Always go with a trusted adult and younger children should be no more than arms length away from you in the sea. Yes that is right - your grown ups ideally need to be in the water with you - it's lovely once they are in!

3 min - Float to Live - the next few slides show how to float to live. Talk about floating in a starfish shape. This is something they need to be practicing when they are next in the swimming pool - see how long they can float for and challenge their friends or family to beat them! Watch

the short video and talk through the points on the slide about the mechanics of floating - what do they actually need to do.

2 min - Hotter or Colder - Thumbs up or down for which water is hotter or colder - did they get it right? Fridge is 5C, March temp is 8C, local beach in summer is 16C, swimming pool 28C and bath 30C. Really important to be prepared for cold water - wear a wetsuit if possible and enter the water slowly rather than jumping straight in. Most people who end up in the water needing help did not mean to get wet that day - they fell in, and the cold water shock caused them to get into trouble. Stay calm if you are in cold water and remember Float to Live.

3 min - Call 999. Talk through how to call 999 - use their own phone, friends or family. Open up the phone and look for the emergency button on the lock screen or look for the phone button. Open up the phone keypad and dial 999. This will put you straight through to the operator. Ask for the Coastguard if you see someone in trouble by the sea or the Fire & Rescue if you see someone in trouble near inland water or rivers. Read through the two scenarios on the slides - ask them to put their hands up if they need to call 999 for scenario 1? No - not dangerous enough - try to stop their friend going into the water to get the ball. If they do go in then you could call for help. Scenario 2? Yes call 999 but DO NOT go into the water yourself. Never go into water to try to rescue someone else as you could end up in trouble too.

1 min - Recap the 4 messages - Stop & Think - look for danger. Stay Together. Float to Live and Call 999.

Last slide - positive image having fun in the water - does anyone have any questions?

30 mins in total - can speed this up or slow it down depending on how engaged you want the children to be.

Ways to follow this up

see www.wildtribeheroes.com/teaching-resources - curriculum maps, digital resources and external links to major water safety charities teaching resources - RNLI, RLSS, RoSPA and Swim Safe

Practice Float to Live in your class swimming lessons.

Ask the charities Above Water or Swim Safe to visit your school.

Design a poster for school, home or class to raise awareness.

Please try to avoid depressing statistics or images that may upset and overwhelm young children - stick to the positive message in the story and happy ending and focus on how children can look after themselves by following these simple steps to help them stay safe.

If you have to read the notes then please feel free to do so as they give so much more to just the story and are a great introduction into the issue. Everything you do on this subject from now on can all be linked back to the story and the four key messages to stay safe.