



**UPPER
PRIMARY**

AGE: 7-11



STOP AND THINK



STAY TOGETHER



FLOAT



CALL 999/112



ACTIVITY: HOW RISKY IS THIS?

LEARNING OUTCOME:

1

I know that to minimise my chances of getting into danger in the water I need to identify potential hazards



INTRODUCTION

This activity asks children to work in pairs or small groups to assess a series of risky behaviour cards and sort them in priority order from the most to the least risky. The activity is an effective starter for providing stimulus for a group debate.



RESOURCES REQUIRED

- ✓ How risky is this? behaviours

LOW TECH OPTION

- ✓ How risky is this? behaviours



DELIVERY

- Print the How risky is this? behaviours and laminate them for future use.
- Group children into pairs or small groups (dependent on how many sets of cards you have).
- Children should review the behaviours on each card and place them in priority order – from what they deem to be the most, to the least risky.
- Encourage children to deliberate their decisions and explain their thinking to the rest of their group or partner.
- Reconvene as a class and discuss the decisions made, nominating one spokesperson from each group to feed back.

DIFFERENTIATION

Arrange the group in mixed ability pairs to encourage peer-to-peer learning.

DISCUSSION SUPPORT

- This activity has been designed to invite the children to discuss the issues without there necessarily being a right or wrong answer.
- Encourage the children to explore the consequences of the action; are there decisions they could make that might lessen the impact of engaging in the activities below e.g. if you forget your bottle of water could you look for a water fountain or find somewhere to buy some water? Equally if you know a particular swimming pool, are a strong swimmer and are familiar with the depth, diving in is fairly low risk; but how does this change if you are unfamiliar with the pool?
- Many of the risks will require common sense thinking, however, you may want to remind the children about the following issues:

JUMPING INTO A COLD LAKE

Children should be aware about the impact of cold water shock – see Cold Water Impact activity. Children should also think about pollution, not knowing the depth, and the risk of getting caught up in hidden hazards.

NOT WEARING SUN SCREEN ON A HOT DAY

Children should try to remember the importance of effective planning for a day out. If sun screen has been forgotten the children should discuss finding shady places to play, using sun hats, having regular drinks and considering heading back home to apply sun lotion.

RUNNING OFF INTO THE SEA WITHOUT AN ADULT

Staying together is one of the RNLI's key safety messages. Children should get into the habit of always staying close the adults when they are near the sea as the sea can be very unpredictable. Rip currents can pull people out to deeper water very quickly. Look out for red and yellow flags on the beach – swimming in between the flags is much safer as they are positioned where there are no rip currents.

CONTINUED →



ACTIVITY: HOW RISKY IS THIS?

DISCUSSION SUPPORT

WALKING TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF A CLIFF

Cliffs are dangerous places. Children should ensure they stay well away from the edge to avoid slipping or falling. Tides can also be unpredictable and there are cases of people being swept from the edge of low cliffs.

DIVING INTO THE DEEP END OF THE POOL

Always check depth and safety signage around the pool first. Children should ensure they are confident swimmers and it is safe to dive into pool. Ensure there is no one underneath and you have a clear space to dive into.

CHASING YOUR DOG ONTO A FROZEN LAKE

Never do this. This is extremely dangerous. It's difficult to know how deep ice is and how stable it is. Dogs tend to be strong swimmers if they fall into water unexpectedly.

NOT TAKING WATER WITH YOU ON A HOT DAY

See example above.

KAYAKING IN A RIVER WITHOUT A LIFE JACKET

A life jacket is a key piece of equipment for kayaking even the strongest of swimmers can get caught out by extreme cold water and strong currents. Always wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid.

ROCK POOLING ON THE BEACH

Rock pooling is lots of fun and simple safety procedures can ensure it stays fun and low risk such as being aware of tides and ensuring that an adult is supervising at all times.

CLIMBING ON THE ROCKS AT THE BEACH

See above: the children should also consider the height of the rocks they are climbing and what is on the other side of the rocks – the sea? A large drop? All of these risks should be assessed before starting to climb.

CONTINUED →



ACTIVITY: HOW RISKY IS THIS?

DISCUSSION SUPPORT

In an emergency
float/call 999 or 112

If you're unsure
about what is
dangerous at
the beach you
are visiting, go
and speak to the
lifeguards on duty.
They're a friendly
bunch and will be
more than happy to
help you out

LEANING INTO A POND TO FETCH YOUR BALL

At times ponds can be deep, very cold and can potentially harbour unseen hazards that could be harmful were someone to fall in. It's best to ask an adult for help in this scenario.

NOT TAKING SHOES TO THE BEACH

We are all used to kicking off shoes as soon as we get to the beach, however, there can be hazards present on beaches such as rubbish and sharp debris that may have been swept in by the sea or left behind by other beach users. It's always a good idea to wear shoes to the beach and to tread carefully once you are there.

VISITING A BEACH WITH NO LIFEGUARD

You should always go to a lifeguarded beach. If there are no lifeguards on duty there are a number of actions beach goers can take to ensure they have a safe time e.g. being familiar with tide times, not going near the water without adult supervision, ensuring that there is a mobile phone which can be used in case of an emergency etc.

CLIMBING OVER THE RAILINGS ALONG A CANAL

The railings are there to protect people from falling in or from a hazard that may be difficult to see. Do not climb over these. See ponds for more information.

NOT CHECKING THE TIDE TIMES

Being familiar with tide times is an essential part of visiting the beach. Many people have been caught out and have been stranded as a result of not having been aware of the tides at the beach. In some areas the tide can rise extremely quickly resulting in emergency situations.