

Water Fun

by Susan Muehlher

Outdoor adventures beckon, now that warmer weather has arrived. When you are planning on visiting a lake, pond, ocean or pool, water safety is imperative. Water is our friend, but it can quickly turn into an enemy. Always review safety tips with youth before venturing close. Check *B.P.&P.*, Section 10006.8 for more information. This mixed bag of fun has something for everyone!

Piranha

Don't let the piranha get you! For ages 5 to 12.

Equipment: shallow pool or body of water.

How to play:

1. One player should be designated the "piranha" and the rest of the players are "fish". The fish line up on one side of the designated area, facing the piranha. The piranha stands or treads water between them and the other side of the area.
2. When the piranha gives the signal, the fish attempt to swim past the piranha without being caught. If tagged, the fish becomes piranha too, and tries to catch other fish.
3. Fish must continue to swim back and forth, past the piranhas. The last remaining fish wins the game and becomes the piranha for the next round.

Make a Water Scope

Material: clean, empty plastic jug, scissors or sharp knife, plastic wrap, rubber bands, packing tape.

What to do:

1. For younger children, cut the bottom off of the jug before the meeting. Older children can do the cutting with supervision. To make

Water Scope Construction



viewing easier, cut off some of the top to widen the opening. Try not to cut the handle, so you can still hold your scope.

2. Cover the bottom opening with plastic wrap and hold it in place with a rubber band. Trim off any extra wrap and tape around the band. You want the window to be tight, so the water won't seep in.
3. Take your scope to a pond or shallow stream and put it into the water with the plastic-wrap end down. You should be able to see under the water clearly as water pressure pressing against the plastic forms a magnifying lens. It's best if you keep your scope in one place and don't move around too much. That way, the watery creatures won't be afraid to come close, and you'll get a good look at them.

Fun with Beach Balls

Lots of games can be devised using beach balls. Try playing volleyball or soccer with a beach ball instead. Throw a beach ball to your partner and catch it with your knees. Invent relays using a beach ball for each player. Try:

- ⊗ kicking the ball backwards
- ⊗ running with the ball between your knees

- ⊗ kneeling, and pushing the ball with your forehead
- ⊗ hopping and kicking the ball with one foot.

Beach Ball Balance Game

Children ages 5 to 12 will enjoy this game.

Equipment: 2 beachballs.

How to play:

1. Divide the group into two teams. Designate a particular area or course for the relay race.
2. Players sit on the beach ball. (This takes balance!) Players then "ride" the beach ball down through the designated course and back to the next person in line. Players may use their arms to help move them down the course.
3. If a player's ball gets away from her, she must retrieve the ball, and continue the race from where she first lost the ball.
4. The team that completes the course first, wins.

Option: For a non-competitive game, give everyone a beach ball and set out a course to complete.

Sponge Buckets

A great game for a hot day. Can be played near water or even at camp on a grassy field.

Equipment: For each team you need: 2 buckets – one with water, one without, a large sponge.

How to play:

1. Divide into relay teams. Place a bucket with water at one end of the line of kids. Place the empty bucket at the other end.
2. The first person dips the sponge into the water and tries to keep as much water as possible. They will now pass it over their head to the next person in line. The second person passes it through their legs to the next person. Continue going over and under until the last person.

- The last person wrings as much water from the sponge as possible into the empty bucket. Then they run to the front.
- Everyone on both of the relay teams moves back one space. Continue the game until everyone has had a chance to be in the first and last position.

Wet Watercolours

Material: water colour paints, drawing paper, brushes, pans of water, newspapers, fine point marking pens.

What to do:

- Soak a piece of drawing paper in the pans of water. Hold it up to drip for a few seconds.

- Have the youth place the wet paper on the newspaper.
- Start to paint immediately on the wet paper with watercolours. The colours will blend together as you paint.
- When the painting is dry, add your name and fine details to the picture with the markers. X



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