

Water Safety Guidance

EYFS children aged under 5

Learning Objectives

- To raise awareness of the Water Safety Code, particularly the Stop and Think and Stay Together message amongst parents with young children.
- To encourage children to hold their adult's hand and stay away from the edge of the water when visiting inland waterways, including canals and rivers
- To find out about what food is good for ducks.



Resources

- [Toddler Water Safety Video](#)
- [Song and poem sheet](#)
- [Colour and draw activity](#)
- [Quack snacks activity](#)
- [Squirrel finger puppets](#)
- [Duck puppet instructions](#)
- [Duck headpiece](#)

Success Criteria

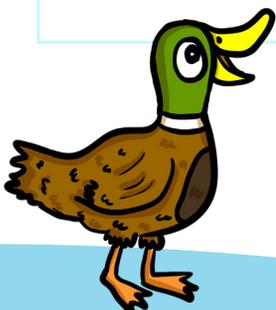
- Children will be able to recall a song to help them to remember how to stay safe near water.
- Children will repeat actions to help them to remember how to stay safe near water.

Teaching/Parent Input

Start by finding out what the children already know about visiting the waterside. **You could ask:** Have you ever fed the ducks? What do you remember about your visit? Why do we need to be careful near water?

Activities

Launch the topic	Watch the Toddler Water Safety Video
Sing the song	Practise the song as a group. Use the song sheet as a prompt. Don't forget to encourage children to join in with the physical actions: Holding hands, taking two steps back and quacking hand action.
Colour and draw	Invite children to use the colour and draw activity . Discuss the scene. Ask the children what the little squirrel is doing well. Children could add colour to the scene and draw along the dotted lines to count the two steps back.
EYFS framework link	<p>Communication and Language – ELG: Speaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate. <p>Expressive Arts and Design – ELG: Creating with Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories. • Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music.



Activities Continued

Practise with puppets Create the [squirrel](#) and [duck](#) puppets using the guidance documents. The squirrel puppets should be printed onto card to make them sturdy. Coloured paper could be used for the duck puppet. Encourage children to practise the song with the puppets.

Duck headpiece Make a [duck headpiece](#) using the template and instructions. Have fun decorating with paint, tissue paper etc.

EYFS framework links **Physical Development – ELG: Fine Motor Skills**

- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery.

Expressive Arts and Design – ELG: Creating with Materials

- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music.

Quack snacks **Discuss** what food is best for ducks. Explain that ducks need healthy food to stay fit and strong. Use the [quack snacks activity](#) and ask children to fill the plate with healthy food for Duck. Children could draw their food ideas or use page 2 of the activity to cut out food images and stick them onto the plate.

Children could fill their duck food bags with healthy treats. You could use purpose-made duck food (sold in pet shops) or create a mixture of oats, seeds and dehydrated vegetables (like sweetcorn or peas).

EYFS framework links **Understanding the World – ELG: The Natural World**

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.

Differentiation

- Some children may need assistance with the cutting activities, most children will need help with cutting the circular holes for the squirrels' legs.
- For younger children, you may wish to focus only on the quacking hand action at the end of each line of the song. Older children may be able to add holding hands and stepping back actions.
- Older children may be able to learn the poem provided on page 2 of the song sheet.
- Some children may be able to count the food for the 'Quack Snacks' plate activity. You could talk about adding one more or practice taking one away. How many are there now?

Suggestions

- Print the song sheet and display it on the wall, use this as a reminder to practise the song.
- Use the squirrel finger puppets to perform a role play about staying away from the edge of the water while feeding ducks.
- Have a duck headpiece parade.
- Make a nature table display with a waterside theme.

Get Outdoor Ideas

- Take your duck food envelopes and visit the waterside to feed the ducks. Practise the song, holding hands and taking two steps back. Make observations about the wildlife that you see.
- Do a nature walk along the canal, gather leaves and twigs to make a waterside/nature display when you return.
- More outdoor activities for families and children can be found at canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/children/lets-go-outdoors

Where to Next?

- Looking for other themes and topics? Check out our other **Learning Bundles** on the [Explorers website](#)
- For more water safety activities for children, schools and uniform groups at canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/water-safety