

Water Safety Old Maid

TOPIC/SUBJECT: Tips for Water Safety

TARGET AUDIENCE/AGE LEVEL: 4-12 years of age

THEME: To make sure you don't get hurt, you need to play it safe around water

GOAL/PURPOSE: Participants will realize the importance of safety while recreating in or near water.

OBJECTIVE(S): Participants will be able to name reasons why it is important to be safe when in or near water, such as wearing a life jacket, learning to swim, never swimming alone.

DESCRIPTION:

- A. The game is played like Old Maid. The objective is to obtain pairs, finishing first without possessing the Old Maid/"Unsafe Guys."
- B. The ideal group size would be 7 players, although a few more or less can be accommodated. If several more players are anticipated, break into groups for more than one game at a time using multiple decks of cards.
- C. The game begins as one player deals one deck of cards to each player in his or her group until the cards are gone. This happens simultaneously, as all groups begin play. After dealing is complete, players lay down pairs. Then the first player picks a card from the deck of the player to his or her right-hand side, hoping to pick a card which he has a match to and especially not the "Unsafe Guys" card. The game ends when players are out of cards. The player who finishes first is the winner. The player who ends with the "Unsafe Guys" card is not the winner.
- D. After each round of play, talk with the group about what is on the cards giving safety tips. Another option is to have each player display a pair and tell why what is on the card is safe (or unsafe for the "Unsafe Guys").

SUGGESTED MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT: Water safety cards, one "Unsafe" card per deck, and a flat surface to play the game.