

Painter Sailing



Carry correctly rigged opti with painter extension, to edge of water.

Walk into sea holding mast, bow first into the waves, until deep enough to do painter work.



Turn opti to a beam reach, with the wind on your back, holding the windward side, let the child hop in. They can put in the centreboard, (there are shorter centreboards in the locker, so you don't have to go too deep) and lower the rudder.



Talking to the child, get them sitting correctly, and pull in the mainsheet to the correct position for a beam reach. Assure them that they will be doing the same actions as on the turntable, and you will be holding the rope, and won't let go.



With the wind on your back give them a little push and off they go. Tell them to go about before you run out of painter. They must sail in front of you whilst you have your back to the wind.



Let them go about again and again until they are confident.



Get them to sail back to you, telling them to let go of the mainsheet to slow down.

Holding windward side let them hop out, and put next child in. If you need to turn opti round , walk your hands round the bow until on a beam reach on the other side.

Everyone needs to be confident with this before you move to gates.

Remember lots of praise.

Best and worst conditions for Painter Work

The Best conditions are when the wind is off shore, any time of the tide, the sea is always flatter and with your back to the wind, it means that you are always on the shallow side of the Opti. This is a nice relaxed condition for the Instructors which makes the kids nice and relaxed too.

The worst conditions and virtually impossible,(unless you are over 6 foot,) is full on shore wind, NE for about 1- 1 ½ hours either side of high tide. With your back to the wind, means you are in the deep end, you really can't do painter when your swimming in waves, not to mention the difficulty of getting the child in and out of an opti safely. However if the tide is right out there is enough flat sand for standing and walking around as long as the waves don't concern the children. The Opti will definitely need the short centre board for this.