

Plan B

Chart Reading

Great Indoor Activity

Instead of just saying to the children at school “WW is cancelled today”. You could teach them the basics of how to read a Marine Chart. They could show off their knowledge next time they are out in a boat with friends or family. There is a whole lot of safety information and “Rules of the Road” out there, that is important to know. Parents could benefit from this session too.

When the children arrive, take them to white line, and show them what “not ok to go out on the water” looks like.

What is WW maximum sailing wind speed we can operate? Take out the wind meter and show them how to use it, take a reading. Look at coastguard now casting, which gives the bigger picture. What is it peaking at? Averaging at? Look at the wind on the water, white caps? On shore or off shore? What is the difference? Tide in or out? Which way is it going? Anyone know when the next tide change is? Why is it important to know?

Are there any boats out there? Anyone sailing? Kayaking? Look at the trees, smoke, flags, and seagulls, does it feel colder in the wind? Why? What do you think? Etc..

Talk about where North is, a compass would be handy, you could draw a chalk circle on the cement, and let the children work out North 360/0, East 90, South 180, West 270, you could draw in where the wind is coming from now.

Before you move inside, take the 2 rolled up Maritime Charts out of tube holder beside the sprits in the first locker. These charts are **NZ 532 Approaches to Auckland**, and **NZ5322 Auckland Harbour East**, they have been laminated for your use. **PLEASE NO PINS**, you may use white board markers on them, clean off with tissue/soft cloth, but not scourer. **THESE CHARTS MUST BE RETURNED AFTER USE.**

Take both charts to the Training Room. You should already have a table in middle of room, to layout the big charts, with chairs for some to sit and others to stand behind so they can see over their heads.

Lay out the 'Approaches to Auckland' chart on the table (you may have to unroll and reroll the other way so it stays flat) Let the children move it round so North is North.

Explain that this is a CHART, not a MAP.

A map tells you about the land, roads, names of roads, towns, areas, mountains etc, and the sea is usually just a blue patch.

A chart tells you all about the sea, how deep it is, the different shades of blue indicate this, what the sea bed is made of, sand, shell, rock. Slide it around so everyone can have a closer look, can they work out where Narrow Neck, Cheltenham Beach, Rangitoto, lighthouses, harbour, Coromandel, even Shipwrecks are? The only details on the land will be landmarks you can easily see from the sea, like the Sky tower, in case a person at sea gets lost.

Now you can unroll the other chart with a close up of Devonport and Rangitoto Chanel, they can see how much more detail and information there is.

When they have all had a good look, you can take away the 2 big charts, and divide the class into groups of about 4-5, and give each group the smaller chart, so they can have a closer look.

What you will need;

- A3 charts these can be photocopied so your school have enough,(they were originally a give-away at an Auckland boat show, for a promotion, to point out to Auckland Boaties where not to fish or anchor - The whole Pink Area - these are not registered charts, so can be copied).
- You will need to purchase a copy of the Coastguard Boating Edition of **The Rules of the Road at Sea**. (This gives you, at the back of the book, an explanation for a selection of the most commonly used symbols and abbreviations found on these charts). These can be purchased from Burnsco.
- Attached will be 2 sets of questions and answers, you can tear off the answers before you give to the children, the answers will help you to show the children what they need to know.
- Remember pencils/pens so children can write their answers.
- These 2 sets of symbols can be photocopied, so each team has one. They clearly show the different buoys, needed for the first set of questions, and the flashing lights for the second.

One set of questions for one day is enough!

Now, when you have all the children's attention and they can all clearly see their charts, you can start pointing out some of the more important symbols, colour, depth, what is the bottom made of, sand, shell, rock etc., on the chart you are holding up. Some children find it fascinating, some, not so much.

You as the instructor will have to familiarise yourself with all these symbols. You will also have the written test with answers to help you.

When you think you have covered everything, especially all the questions, give each team a pencil/pen, and let them start answering the questions.

Wait until they have all finished, then get the teams to swap their answers, so they can mark each other's, one point for one tick.

Praise for the leaders

Hopefully they may remember something. Even if only Port and Starboard!

What to do next will depend on the conditions of the weather and sea and time.

First choice would be to all get changed, ready for a swim, buoyancy aids, take out some boogie boards and let them have a play. You will need some parents in deep end keeping the children close to shore, where you want them, and as they drift left or right, get them to run back along the beach to where they started.

Dry land ideas;

1. Rigging and de-rigging races on grass, knots, tug of war, (tying two mainsheets together with 2 bowlines)

2. Scavenger hunt, can be individual, or teams.

Write the list on a whiteboard; so the children have to remember them

1 Olive Leaf,

1 Pohutukawa Leaf,

Something blue,

1 whole shell,

1 feather,

Piece of driftwood,

Piece of rubbish,

Something plastic,

Piece of seaweed

Water in something

If it's a black drop day, and children have to stay above the white line, so you will have to eliminate the beach objects, maybe be creative and find some replacements.

Check out some more options in Plan B on Waterwise website.

OTHER INFORMATION

Water Safety NZ has a lot of free booklets on all aspects of water activities.

Go to www.watersafety.org.nz and look at all the information they have.