Playing in water can be fun, but it can also be dangerous if kids don’t know the proper safety rules. This lesson guide provides you with activities and discussion questions you can use with your students to teach them all they need to know about water safety.

**Related KidsHealth Links**

**Articles for Kids:**

- **Swimming**
  KidsHealth.org/kid/watch/out/water.html

- **CPR: A Real Lifesaver**
  KidsHealth.org/kid/watch/er/cpr.html

- **Why Does My Skin Get Wrinkly in Water?**
  KidsHealth.org/kid/talk/qa/wrinkly_fingers.html

**Discussion Questions**

*Note: The following questions are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.*

1. Have you ever gone swimming in a pool? What are some rules you need to remember when playing in the pool?

2. Have you ever played in the ocean or at a lake? Why do some places have lifeguards? What’s their job?

3. Where are some other places that you can play in water? What are some of the rules for water safety?
Activities for Students

Note: The following activities are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

Safety Duck!

Objectives:
Students will:
- Identify important rules to help them stay safe in the bathtub
- Create a bathtub safety book that they can keep in the bathroom as a reminder of water safety rules

Materials:
- Chart paper or chalkboard
- Markers or chalk
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Safety Duck! handout (available at: KidsHealth.org/classroom/prekto2/personal/water_safety_handout1.pdf)

Class Time:
45 minutes

Activity:
(Teachers: Prepare the books ahead of time, making sure each child has 7 pages — 1 page for each rule listed below, plus a front cover. Older students can use the cover plus 6 copies of the blank rubber ducky page to write the rules themselves. Younger students can use rubber ducky pages that have the rules written at the bottom of each page.)

How many of you take a bath to get clean? How many of you take a shower? Do you take your bath or shower in the morning or at night? Bath time can be so much fun, but it can also be dangerous if you’re not careful. So it’s important to know how to stay safe in the bath. Today, we’re going to make a bathtub safety book. We’ll call it our Safety Duck because it’s in the shape of a duck. Each page of your book will list a different safety rule and you’ll illustrate that rule. Who can think of some bathtub safety rules? I’ll write them on the chart.

- Carefully climb in and out of the tub
- Always sit in the tub — never stand
- Always have a grown-up in the bathroom with you
- Don’t drink the bath water
- Don’t touch the water faucet or knobs

Now it’s time to make your book. Each page of your book has one rule on it. Your job is to illustrate the rule on each page. When you’re finished, cut out each page so your book will be in the shape of a rubber ducky! Then come to me and I’ll staple your pages together.

Extensions:
1. Students can work in groups to create a bathtub or shower safety song to sing at home.
Safety Is Cool at the Pool!

Objectives:
Students will:
- Discuss important rules to remember when swimming in a pool
- Create a label that can be taped to a water bottle listing important pool safety rules

Materials:
- Water Bottle Label handout (available at: KidsHealth.org/classroom/prekto2/personal/water_safety_handout2.pdf)
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, crayons, scissors)
- Chart paper or chalkboard

Class Time:
45 minutes

Activity:
Today, we’re going to list all the important rules you need to remember at the pool. Then we’re going to create a label that will stick to the side of your water bottle. Please tell me some pool safety rules and I’ll write them on the chart paper.

- Always have an adult watch you
- Don’t go in water over your chest if you can’t swim
- Always walk around the pool — don’t run
- Listen to the lifeguards and obey pool rules
- Never play rough games in the water
- Always jump feet first and far away from the side when you jump in
- Never push someone into a pool or jump on someone
- Only dive in a diving area

Now you’re going to create your water bottle label. Remember to pick one rule to illustrate. *(Teachers: Younger kids can use the water bottle label handout that already has rules listed on it. Older kids can use the blank water bottle label and write their own rules.)*

Reproducible Materials

- Handout: Safety Duck
  KidsHealth.org/classroom/prekto2/personal/water_safety/handout1.pdf

- Handout: Water Bottle Label
  KidsHealth.org/classroom/prekto2/personal/water_safety/handout2.pdf
Safety Duck

Instructions: (Teachers: Prepare the books ahead of time, making sure each child has 7 pages — one page for each rule listed below, plus a front cover. Older students can use the cover plus 6 copies of the blank rubber ducky page to write the rules themselves. Younger students can use the rubber ducky pages that have the rules written at the bottom of each page.)
Safety Duck

Rule 1

Carefully climb in and out of the tub
Safety Duck

Rule 2

Always sit in the tub – never stand
Safety Duck

Rule 3

Always have a grown-up in the bathroom with you
Safety Duck

Rule 4

Don’t drink the bath water
Safety Duck

Rule 5

Don’t touch the water faucet or knobs
Safety Duck

Make your own rule
Water Bottle Label — Pool Safety Rules

Instructions: Pick one of the important safety rules you need to remember at the pool and illustrate it on the blank area on the label below.

1. Always have an adult watch you
2. Don’t go in water over your chest if you can’t swim
3. Always walk around the pool — don’t run
4. Listen to the lifeguards and obey pool rules
5. Never play rough games in the water
6. Always jump feet first and far away from the side when you jump in
7. Never push someone into a pool or jump on someone
8. Only dive in a diving area