

SAMPLE BLOCK AND LESSON PLANS

Learn-to-Swim Level 1—Introduction to Water Skills

Important Note: These block and lesson plans are samples only and are in no way intended to serve as a recommended way to deliver the lessons. Develop block plans and lesson plans to meet your specific needs.

Instructor Resources: Swimming and Water Safety, Water Safety Instructor's Manual, Teaching Swimming and Water Safety DVD, Longfellow's WHALE Tales K–6 Educational Packet, Instructor's Corner

SAMPLE BLOCK PLAN



Learn-to-Swim Level 1—Introduction to Water Skills

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Safety Topic Staying safe around water	Safety Topic Recognizing the lifeguard	Safety Topic Recognizing an emergency	Safety Topic Don't Just Pack It, Wear Your Jacket
Opening Activity/ Review Skills • Explain the concept of swimming as a pair • Make partner pairs	Opening Activity/ Review Skills • Enter and exit the water safely using ramp, ladder, steps or side • Blow away Ping-Pong balls with bubbles • Submerge to eyes • Explain proper use of kickboard • Explain proper use of swim bar float • Back glide with swim bar float and recover	Opening Activity/ Review Skills Enter water safely using ramp, steps or side Blow bubbles Pick up submerged objects Bobs Front glide and recover with support Back glide with assistance Back float and recover with assistance Alternating arm and leg action on front with assistance Alternating arm and leg action on back with assistance	Opening Activity/ Review Skills Open eyes underwater and retrieve submerged objects Back float with assistance Swim on front with assistance (alternating arm and leg action) Swim on back with assistance (alternating arm and leg action) Swim on back with assistance (simultaneous arm and leg action) Swim on front with assistance (simultaneous arm and leg action) Swim on back with assistance (simultaneous arm and leg action) Swim on back with assistance (simultaneous arm and leg action)
New Skills Enter and exit the water safely using ramp, ladder, steps or side Explore designated lesson area Blowing bubbles Submerge to mouth and nose Front glide with support Recover from front glide to vertical position Back glide with assistance	New Skills Pick up submerged objects Back float with swim bar float then recover Alternating leg action on front with support Alternating arm action on front with support Alternating leg action on back with support Alternating arm action on back with support	New Skills Simultaneous arm action on front with assistance Simultaneous leg action on front with assistance Simultaneous arm action on back with assistance Simultaneous leg action on back with assistance	New Skills Combined arm and leg actions on front with assistance Swim wearing a life jacket Float on back
Game Blow the Cork Equipment Swim Lessons Achievement Booklets, as needed Level 1 newsletters Ping-Pong or different colored balls Corks and other small floating objects	Game • Mike's Ball Game Equipment • Kickboards • Swim bar floats • Ping-Pong or different colored balls • Hoops • Submersible water toys	Game • Sharks and Minnows Equipment • Kickboards or other flotation devices • Swim bar floats • Hoops • Submersible water toys	Game Hot Ball Equipment Kickboards or other flotation devices Hoops Submersible water toys Beach ball U.S. Coast Guardapproved life jackets (correct sizes for the participants) Don't Just Pack It, Wear Your Jacket poster

SAMPLE BLOCK PLAN (Continued)

Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Safety Topic	Safety Topic	Safety Topic	Safety Topic
 How to call for help 	How to call for help	Too Much Sun Is No Fun	 General water safety rules
		 Too Much Sun Is No Fun Opening Activity/ Review Skills Enter water using ramp, steps or side, travel while blowing bubbles Open eyes under water and pick up submerged objects Bobs Front glide, face in water, independently and recover with support Back glide independently and recover with assistance Arm and leg actions on front and back with assistance (alternating) Arm and leg actions on front and back with assistance (simultaneous) Combined arm and leg actions on front, roll to 	
		back and back float with assistance Combined arm and leg actions on back, roll to front and swim combined arm and leg actions on front with assistance Treading—explore arm and hand movements Swim wearing a life jacket	
New Skills	New Skills	New Skills	New Skills
 Front glide, face in water independently Back float independently and recover with assistance Combined arm and leg actions on back with support 	Roll from front to back Roll from back to front Treading—explore arm and hand movements	No new skills	Exit skills assessment
Game	Game	Game	Game
Sharks and Minnows	Red Ball, Green Ball	Transformers	Simon Says
 Equipment Kickboards or other flotation devices Swim bar floats Hoops Submersible water toys 	 Equipment Kickboards or other flotation devices Swim bar floats Water toys Different colored balls 	 Equipment Kickboards or other flotation devices Swim bar floats Hoops Submersible water toys Large balls, kickboards or barbell Too Much Sun Is No Fun 	EquipmentCompletion cardsRewards for participants

SAMPLE LESSON PLANS



Learn-to-Swim Level 1—Introduction to Water Skills

Instructor:Wilbert E. LongfellowSession Begin Date:June 15Location:Municipal Family Aquatic CenterSession End Date:June 30Total Number of Classes:8Length of Classes:45 minutes

 Swim Lessons Achievement Booklets Level 1 newsletters Ping-Pong balls or different colored balls Corks or other small floating objects 		 Reminders Distribute one Swim Lessons Achievement Booklet to each participant, as needed. Distribute newsletters to participants and/or their parents. Review "Parent and Child Aquatics and Preschool Aquatics Images, Games, Songs and Rhymes" and "Teaching Activities, Drills and Games" on Instructor's Corner. Review Blow the Cork for setup and directions. 	
Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Housekeeping			
5 minutes	 Introduce yourself and ask participants for their names Explain how to enter and exit pool Show designated lesson area 	 "Safe" "No running"	Circle, seated on deck
Safety Topic			
5 minutes	 Staying safe around water 	 "Safe" "No running" "Supervising or watching you"	Circle, seated on deck
Opening Activity			
2 minutes	Explain the concept of swimming as a pairMake partner pairs	 "Partner" "Responsible"	Circle, seated on deck
New Skills			
3 minutes	 Enter the water safely using ramp, steps or side Exit the water using ladder, steps or side 	"Careful""Safely"	Two lines (partner pairs) then circle, in water
4 minutes	 Explore designated lesson area (notice who seems comfortable and who seems fearful) 		

Day 1 (Continued)

Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
New Skills (continued)			
3 minutes	Blowing bubbles 1. Take a breath and blow into the air 2. Pretend that your finger is a candle and blow it out 3. Blow a small ball (Ping-Pong ball) along surface of the water	 "Breathe or inhale" "Blow bubbles or exhale" "Blow out the candles" 	Circle in water
2 minutes	Submerge to mouth and nose (3 times)Blow bubbles through the mouth and nose	 "Blow bubbles or exhale" "Hum"	Line, holding wall
3 minutes	 Front glide with support—demonstrate then practice 	 "Blast off like a rocket" "Stretch long"	 Line, seated on deck; then line with partner at the pool wall
5 minutes	 Recover to vertical position from front glide—demonstrate then practice 	 "Feet down" "Stand up"	 Line, seated on deck; then line with partner at the pool wall
5 minutes	Back glide with assistance— demonstrate then practice	 "Head back" "Tummy up"	 Line, seated on deck; then line with partner at the pool wall, stagger
Game			
5 minutes	Blow the Cork		Two teams at opposite sides of swimming area
Closing			
3 minutes	 Thank participants for hard work and trying Offer positive reinforcement of what they did well Review lesson Announcements for next lesson 	 "Effort" "Good job" "Safe"	Circle

HoopsSubmersible vRescue tube	lls or different colored balls water toys	Reminders Review Mike's Ball Game	·
Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Housekeeping	Take attendance	"Ctoutomathou"	
2 minutes	Take attendanceAssign partners	"Stay together"	
Safety Topic		"	
5 minutes	Recognizing the lifeguard	 "Rescue tube" "Supervised" "Safe" "Partner" "Pair" "Lifeguard chair" "Uniform" "Zone" 	Circle, seated next to partner on deck
Review Skills			
2 minutes	 Enter the water safely using ramp, steps or side Exit the water using ladder, steps or side 	 "Safely enter the pool" "Careful"	 Line on deck, with partner
2 minutes	Blow away Ping-Pong balls with bubbles	 "Blow away the dandelion" 	Circle
2 minutes	Submerge to eyes (3 times)	 "Exhale" "Inhale" "Hum"	 Line, holding pool wall
3 minutes	 Explain proper use of kickboard Front glide with kickboard and recover 	 "Blow your bubbles when your face is in the water" "Don't hold your breath" "Soft kicks"	Line, stagger
3 minutes	 Explain proper use of swim bar float Back glide with swim bar float and recover 	 "Relax" "Head back"	 Line with partner, stagger
New Skills			
3 minutes	Pick up submerged objects	 "Open your eyes" "Look for the toy"	Circle in water next to partner
5 minutes	Back float with swim bar float then recover	 "Head back" "Tummy up" "Sit your bottom down"	 Line with partner, stagger
5 minutes	 Alternating leg action on front with support Alternating arm action on front with support 	 "Soft kick, long legs" "Long arms" "Reach and pull"	Bracketed on wallLine with partner, stagger
5 minutes	 Alternating leg action on back with support Alternating arm action on back with support 	 "Soft kick, long legs" "Reach back, push water to feet"	 Line with partner, stagger

Day 2 (Continued)

Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Game			
5 minutes	Mike's Ball Game		Circle next to partner
Closing			
3 minutes	 Thank participants for trying hard Offer positive reinforcement of what they did well Review lesson Ask them to tell you what their favorite thing was that they did today. Announcements for next lesson 	 "Supervised" "Safe" "Great job"	Circle

EquipmentKickboards orSwim bar floaHoopsSubmersible v		Reminders Review Sharks and Minnows for	or setup and directions.
Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Housekeeping			
2 minutes	Take attendanceAssign partners	"Stay with your partner"	
Safety Topic			
5 minutes	Recognizing an emergency	 "Supervised" "Lifeguard" "Know the way to get out" "How deep is the water?"	 Circle, seated next to partner on deck
Review Skills			
2 minutes	 Enter the water safely using ramp, steps or side Exit the water using ladder, steps or side 	"Careful""Safely"	• Line
2 minutes	Blow bubbles	 "Exhale" "Inhale" "Make a sound like a motorboat"	 Circle next to partner
2 minutes	Pick up submerged objects	 "Look for the rings" "Hum"	
3 minutes	Bobs (3 times)	"Up and down""Hum"	
2 minutes	 Front glide (2 body lengths) and recover with support—glide through the hoop 	 "Superman float right through the hoop" "Stay long"	 Line with partner, stagger
3 minutes	 Back glide (2 body lengths) with assistance Back float (3 seconds) and recover with assistance 	 "Head back" "Look at the sky" "Stand up"	Line with partner, staggerLine with partner, stagger
3 minutes	Alternating arm and leg action on front with assistance	 "Reach and pull" "Kick, kick, kick"	 Line with partner, stagger
3 minutes	Alternating arm and leg action on back with assistance	 "Reach back" "Push water to feet" "Motorboat kick"	 Line with partner, stagger
New Skills			
5 minutes	 Simultaneous arm action on front with assistance Simultaneous leg action on front with assistance 	 "Reach, glide, pull water back" "Kick like a frog or kick like a dolphin" 	 Line with partner, stagger
5 minutes	 Simultaneous arm action on back Simultaneous leg action on back 	 "Flap your wings" "Kick like a frog or kick like a dolphin"	 Line with partner, stagger

Day 3 (Continued)

Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Game			
5 minutes	Sharks and Minnows		Two teams line up on designated line
Closing			
3 minutes	 Thank participants for their attention and participation Offer positive reinforcement Review lesson Announcements for next lesson 	 "Great job today" "What was your favorite thing today?" "You were swimming—good for you" 	Circle

Equipment Reminders Kickboards or other flotation devices Keep an eye out for any participant that is able to qualify for a badge. Hoops Review Hot Ball for setup and directions. Submersible water toys Beach ball U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets (correct sizes for the participants) Don't Just Pack It, Wear Your Jacket poster **Time Activity Key Words/Phrases Class Organization** Housekeeping Take attendance "Stay together" 2 minutes Assign partners **Safety Topic** Don't Just Pack It, Wear Your Circle, seated next 4 minutes "What's your size?" Jacket to partner on deck All try on life jackets to find correct size **Review Skills** 2 minutes Open eyes under water and "Open those eyes" Circle pick up submerged objects "Find all the toys" "What do you see?" 4 minutes Back float (3 seconds) with "Head back, look up at Line in water assistance and recover the clouds" "Feet down" Swim on front with assistance "Long, soft arms" Line with partner, 4 minutes "Reach and pull" (alternating arm and leg action) stagger "Soft motorboat kick" 4 minutes Swim on back with assistance "Reach back Line with partner, "Push water to feet" (alternating arm and leg action) stagger "Soft motorboat kick" 4 minutes Swim on front with assistance "Reach long, glide, pull Line with partner, (simultaneous arm and leg water back" stagger "Kick like a frog or kick action) like a dolphin" Swim on back with assistance Line with partner, 3 minutes (simultaneous arm and leg stagger action) **New Skills** 5 minutes Combined arm and leg actions Line on front with assistance 7 minutes Swim wearing a life jacket "Relax" Move to deck; help Help participants enter one "Roll over" participants put on "Hug your jacket" life jacket, then line at a time Cue to roll over onto back "Reach and pull" on pool edge next "Head back and look at and float to partner Cue to roll over onto front the clouds" then return to wall Jump in then return to wall using combined arm and leg actions on front Float on back

Day 4 (Continued)

Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization			
Game	Game					
4 minutes	Hot Ball		Circle			
Closing	Closing					
2 minutes	 Thank participants for their attention and participation Offer positive reinforcement of what they did well Review lesson Announcements for next lesson 	"Good job being safe today!"				

 Equipment Kickboards or other flotation devices Swim bar floats Hoops Submersible water toys 		Reminders Review Sharks and Minnows for setup and directions.	
Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Housekeeping			
2 minutes	Take attendanceAssign partners	"Stay with your partner"	
Safety Topic			
5 minutes	How to call for help	"Don't hang up"	Circle, seated next to partner on deck
Review Skills			
1 minute	 Enter the water safely using ramp, steps or side Exit the water using ladder, steps or side 	• "In the water"	• Line
1 minute	Blow bubbles	"Let me hear those motorboats""Good bubbles"	Circle
2 minutes	Bobs (at least 3 times)	"Up and down""Hum"	Line, holding pool wall
2 minutes	Front glide (2 body lengths) and recover with support	 "Stretch long" "Glide" "Stand up"	 Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Back glide (2 body lengths) and recover with assistance	 "Head back" "Ears in the water" "Stand up"	 Line with partner, stagger
3 minutes	 Simultaneous arm action on front with assistance Simultaneous leg action on front with assistance 	 "Reach, glide, pull water back" "Kick like a frog or kick like a dolphin" 	 Line with partner, stagger two at a time
3 minutes	Combined arm and leg actions on front with assistance	 "Reach and pull" "Long arms" "Kick, kick"	Line with partner, stagger two at a time
3 minutes	 Simultaneous arm action on back Simultaneous leg action on back 	 "Flap those wings" "Push that water" "Kick the water"	Line with partner, stagger two at a time
New Skills			
4 minutes	Front glide, face in water (2 body lengths), independently	 "Face in…look for the fish" "Hum" "Stretch long"	Line with partner, stagger
4 minutes	Back float (at least 3 seconds) independently and recover with assistance	 "Head back, chin up" "Look at the clouds" "Tummy up" "Stand up"	Line with partner, stagger
5 minutes	Combined arm and leg actions on back with support	"Reach, pull, kick"	Line with partner, stagger

Day 5 (Continued)

Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization	
Game				
5 minutes	Sharks and Minnows		Two lines	
Closing	Closing			
3 minutes	 Thank participants for their effort Offer positive reinforcement of what they did well Review lesson Announcements for next lesson 	"Fantastic swimming today"	Circle	

 Equipment Kickboards or other flotation devices Swim bar floats Different colored balls Water toys 		Reminders Review Red Ball, Green Ball for setup and directions.	
Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Housekeeping			
2 minutes	Take attendanceAssign partners		Circle, on deck
Safety Topic			
4 minutes	 How to call for help Info call taker will ask Pretend making call 	"9-1-1 or emergency number""Icon"	Circle, on deck
Review Skills			
2 minutes	 Enter the water safely using ramp, steps or side Travel (5 yards) in any manner Exit the water using ladder, steps or side 	• "Safely"	Line on deck, then along pool wall
1 minute	Blow bubbles	 "Blow out those candles" 	Circle, in water
1 minute	Pick up submerged objects	"Talk to the fish"	Circle, in water
2 minutes	Bobs away from wall (at least 3)	 "Remember your bubbles" "Let me hear you hum"	 Line, just off pool wall
2 minutes	Front glide (2 body lengths) and recover independently	• "Superman"	Line with partner, stagger two at a time
2 minutes	Back glide (2 body lengths) and recover with assistance	 "Head back" "Chin up" "Stretch long"	 Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Back float (at least 3 seconds) and recover independently	 "Big breath" "Tummy up" "Relax, take a nap"	 Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Alternating arm and leg action on front with assistance	 "Reach long" "Soft arms" "Small kicks"	 Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Alternating arm and leg action on back with assistance	 "Reach back" "Push water to feet" "Little kicks"	 Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Combined arm and leg actions on front with assistance	 "Reach and pull" "Kick, kick, kick"	 Line with partner, stagger
4 minutes	Simultaneous arm and leg action on front	 "Reach, glide, pull water back, kick, kick" 	 Line with partner, stagger
4 minutes	Simultaneous arm and leg action on back	 "Flap your wings" "Kick like a frog"	 Line with partner, stagger

Day 6 (Continued)

Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
New Skills			
2 minutes	Roll over from front to back	 "Face in, glide" "Look at the sky, tummy up"	 Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Roll over from back to front	"Look at the sky""Look at the fish (underwater)"	 Line with partner, stagger
4 minutes	Treading—explore arm and hand movements	"Rub the water back and forth"	Circle
Game			
4 minutes	Red Ball, Green Ball	"Don't throw the baton"	Line at pool wall
Closing			
2 minutes	 Thank participants for trying hard Offer positive reinforcement of what they did well Review lesson Announcements for next lesson 	"Nice job, you are swimming so well"	Circle

Equipment Kickboards or other flotation devices Swim bar floats

- Hoops
- Submersible water toys
- Large balls, kickboards or barbell

Reminders

- Prepare completion cards to the extent possible.
- Consider who qualifies to test for a badge, especially for any participants who may not pass the level.
- Review Transformers for setup and directions.

Too Much Sun Is No Fun poster			
Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization
Housekeeping			
2 minutes	Take attendanceAssign partners	"Stay with your partner"	Circle, on deck
Safety Topic			
3 minutes	Too Much Sun Is No Fun	• "Burn"	Circle, seated next to partner on deck
Review Skills			
3 minutes	 Enter the water using ramp, steps or side Travel (5 yards) and while blowing bubbles Exit the water using ladder, steps or side 	 "Careful" "Follow me" "Blow away that dandelion"	Line, then along pool wall
1 minute	Open eyes under water and pick up submerged objects	"Can you find them?"	Circle
2 minutes	• Bobs	 "Face in—hum" "Face out—breathe in"	Circle
2 minutes	 Front glide (2 body lengths), face in water, independently and recover with support 	 "Glide like Superman" "Put your feet down and stand up"	Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	 Back glide (2 body lengths) independently and recover with assistance 	 "Head back" "Tummy up" "Pull up a chair and put your feet down"	Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Alternating arm and leg action on front with assistance	 "Reach long" "Soft arms" "Small kicks"	Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	 Alternating arm and leg action on back with assistance 	 "Reach back" "Push water to feet" "Little kicks"	Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	 Simultaneous arm and leg action on front with assistance 	 "Reach, glide, pull water back, kick, kick" 	 Line with partner, stagger
2 minutes	Simultaneous arm and leg action on back with assistance	 "Flap your wings" "Kick like a frog"	 Line with partner, stagger
5 minutes	Combined arm and leg actions on front with assistance, roll over from front to back and back float (3 seconds) with assistance	 "Swim out, roll over" "Float"	Line with partner, stagger
5 minutes	Combined arm and leg actions on back, roll over from back to front and swim combined arm and leg actions on front with assistance	 "Swim on back" "Roll over" "Swim on front"	Line with partner, stagger

Day 7 (Continued)

Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization		
Review Skills (continued)					
2 minutes	Treading—explore arm and hand movements	"Rub the water back and forth"	Circle		
4 minutes	Swim wearing a life jacket	 "Relax" "Swim soft"	Wave		
Game					
4 minutes	Transformers		Line, stagger		
Closing					
3 minutes	 Thank participants for working hard Offer positive reinforcement of what they did well Review lesson Announcements for next lesson 		Circle		

EquipmentCompletion caRewards for p		end of the lesson.	ges or award badges ompleted some badge need a formal test).		
Time	Activity	Key Words/Phrases	Class Organization		
Housekeeping					
2 minutes	Take attendanceAssign partners	"Stay together"	Circle, on deck		
Safety Topic					
5 minutes	General water safety rules		 Line, stagger 		
Review Skills					
15 minutes	Review exit skills—see Day 7		Line, stagger		
New Skills					
8 minutes	Part 1 of exit skills assessment: Enter independently, using either the ramp, steps or side, travel at least 5 yards, bob 5 times, then safely exit the water. (Participants can walk, move along the gutter or "swim.")		Line, stagger		
7 minutes	Part 2 of exit skills assessment: Glide on front at least 2 body lengths, roll to a back float for 5 seconds and recover to a vertical position. (This part of the assessment can be performed with assistance.)		Line, stagger		
Game					
5 minutes	Simon Says		Line at wall		
Closing					
4 minutes	 Congratulate participants their on success and progress Complete and sign achievement booklets and distribute completion cards. Inform participants and their parents about what to sign up for in the next session 		Circle		