

# Life Ring Wooden Puzzle

**TOPIC/SUBJECT:** Water Safety basics

**TARGET AUDIENCE/AGE LEVEL:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to adult

**TIME:** 15-20 minutes

**THEME:** Knowing these basic water safety tips could save your life.

**GOAL/PURPOSE:** The participants will know the basic measures to take when around the water.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Participants will be able to recall different water safety techniques that could be used to prevent a disaster.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

- A. The life ring wooden puzzle has water safety messages painted on the top of each piece.
- B. The children can be put into pairs and each pair can have one puzzle piece.
- C. As each puzzle piece is laid in place the children can read what their piece says and discuss what it means.
- D. Here is what each puzzle piece says:

1. **Learn how to swim.**

2. **Don't dive into unknown waters.** There could be a shallow bottom, a rock or log that you don't see that you could hit your head on.

3. **Learn safe rescue reaches.** Reach--use something to reach out to the drowning person, such as an oar, a towel, your pants or a belt. Be sure to brace yourself so you are not pulled into the water.

4. **Never swim alone.** Always use the buddy system and make sure you watch your buddy while swimming.

5. **Always wear your life jacket when boating.** If you are thrown from the boat and hit your head, you could become unconscious. You would not have time to put on your life jacket.

6. **Call for help only when you need it.** Never pretend to be drowning.

7. **Inflatable toys should never take the place of a life jacket.** Inflatables are plastic blow-up toys, such as air mattresses, arm floaties, beach balls, etc. They float but can easily get holes in them.

**SUGGESTED MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT:** A wooden puzzle shaped as a life ring in 7 pieces.