



SWIMMY
by
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Swimmy survived the first time because he was faster than all of the other fish in his school, and because they weren't behaving as a school. Swimmy shows us how schooling behavior helps small fish survive.

You and your students will become "fish" and learn how to swim in a "school". You will swim a simple course following these rules:

- The fish swim close together without touching.
- All fish in a school maintain the same speed and direction.
- The front fish in the school determines the direction and the speed for all.
- Each time a school turns, the front fish becomes the leader.
- A school that is forced to divide must reunite as soon as possible.

MATERIALS: 1 fish pattern, 1/2 manila folder or heavy paper for backing of fish pattern, colored markers or crayons, scissors, glue, tongue depressors.

ACTIVITY: Divide your students in groups of 4, 5, or 6. Assign colors to each group; students may color the circles or the entire fish. Glue fish to backing and cut out. Glue tongue depressor on dotted line on fish. Students are ready to attend "Fish School" and learn the importance of working or swimming together.

TEACHER NOTES: This is a great activity to do outside on the playground.

SOURCE: Deborah Tippins and Monterey Bay Aquarium/Education Department, CA

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.5, 1.7, 5.2, 5.4, 11.2, 12.1

NCTM: 13a, 9b

SCS: A1, B2, C1, C3, H1, H2, H5

Lionni, Leo. Swimmy. Dragonfly Books, Alfred A. Knopf, 1963, ISBN #0-394-82620-5.

