

# **Bobbie the Safety Boat Lesson Plan 1 – “PFDs” Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary**

**Target Audience:** small children and adults combined

**Audience size:** small to medium

**Team Participants** – operator  
- Sidekick

**resource material – Bobbie’s Lifejacket / PFD  
Kit Bag: Contains various sizes of PFDs  
and lifejackets for children and adults (some  
n/g or American ones if possible as well  
- 4 small kids chairs**

**Venue-** Indoor/Outdoor  
Classroom, stage, CBS Trailer

## **OVERVIEW**

Throughout the presentation Bobbie and the Sidekick interact. Bobbie and the Sidekick team-teach to cover all the key points/rules. The children’s attention is maintained by asking them questions throughout the presentation. Bobbie does funny little antics that keep the kids smiling and laughing at the same time he shares the educational information. But most of all, Bobbie maintains their attention so they don’t forget what they have learned.

Bobbie should always have some movement and be doing something active so he appears to be alive. This is where the magic of Bobbie makes

him so effective as the children experience a great deal of fun and gain educational value from their new friend.

The lesson plan below provides direction as well as general content to be taught. But the entertainment value Bobbie provides is up to you. Have fun with him. You will find that Bobbie easily wins hearts and minds of his audience.

Prior to the introduction Bobbie should be out of sight of the children if possible. If this isn't possible, then have Bobbie placed off to the side of the presentation area with eyes closed (sleeping).

### **Sidekick**

Hello everyone, my name is

\_\_\_\_\_, I'm with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and I'm here to teach you all about lifejackets. Today I brought a very special friend with me, he's a great safety boat and his name is Bobbie. He loves children and he is the smartest little boat in the whole wide world. Today Bobbie will help me teach you all about lifejackets or Personal Flootation Devices, PFDs for short.

### **Sidekick** *takes off cover*

Bobbie is having a nap right now. It was a very long journey getting here. Do you think we should wake him up?

### **Audience**

Responds

**Sidekick**

On the count of three, let's say "Wake up Bobbie".

**Bobbie**

Hello everyone, my name is Bobbie and I'm here to help \_\_\_\_\_ tell you all about PFDs.

**Sidekick**

Bobbie, before we go on, don't you have a boating safety rule that says something about PFDs?

**Bobbie**

That's right. Don't just pack it, wear your lifejacket To float like me, wear your PFD

**Sidekick**

Q: Why is it important to wear your PFD when you go on a boat?

**Audience**

Responds

**Sidekick**

A: In case the boat tips over or you fall into the water.

Can you imagine what it would be like to try to put on a lifejacket or PFD if you fell into the water?

What if you fell out of your boat and couldn't reach your lifejacket or PFD. It's always much safer to wear your PFD all the time. Life jackets or PFDs are like seatbelts or car seats. We always wear our seat belts for safety when we are in the car, don't we? When we are boating, on the dock or near water we should always wear our PFD.

**Bobbie**

\_\_\_\_\_ did you bring your bag of goodies to show all the people?

**Sidekick**

I sure did Bobbie. Here it is.

**Sidekick** *brings out equipment bag with LJ and PFDs*

**Sidekick**

There are three important rules about lifejackets or PFDs that we all should know.

**Bobbie**

I know the first rule. There must be one lifejacket or PFD for each person on the boat.

**Sidekick**

That's right Bobbie. And to show everybody what we mean we are going to put on a little show.

**Sidekick** *arranges four kids chairs to look like seating in a boat and asks for four volunteers then gives out three LJs*

**Sidekick**

Bobbie, what's wrong here?

**Bobbie (acting upset)**

Oh no, there are only three lifejackets and there are four people. Someone is missing a lifejacket.

**Sidekick**

That's right Bobbie. There aren't enough lifejackets for everyone on the boat. So Bobbie, tell everyone again what is the first rule.

**Bobbie**

There must be one lifejacket for each person on the boat.

**Sidekick** *gives the fourth child a lifejacket.*

**Bobbie (acting happy)**

That's better now everyone has a life jacket. I feel better now knowing that everybody has a lifejacket.

\_\_\_\_\_ I know the second rule about lifejackets.

**Sidekick**

What is the second rule about lifejackets, Bobbie?

**Sidekick** *opens up the lifejacket to show the label inside.*

**Sidekick**

Look on this label to see if it is Canadian approved. Bobbie do you know the names of the three government agencies that approve lifejackets?

**Bobbie**

I sure do \_\_\_\_\_. They are:  
Transport Canada  
Canadian Coast Guard  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

**Sidekick**

That's right Bobbie. I see you were listening to the teacher during lifejacket class. They are:  
Transport Canada  
Canadian Coast Guard  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

**Bobbie**

\_\_\_\_\_ are all lifejackets approved for use in Canada?

*Attendant shows a U.S. approved lifejacket and ski vest.*

**Sidekick**

That's a very good question, Bobbie. No, not all lifejackets are approved for use in Canada. Some lifejackets may read approved for use in the United States or the lifejacket may look like

a lifejacket when it really isn't. It's always important to read the label before you buy your lifejacket. Bobbie, what is the third rule about lifejackets?

**Bobbie**

Your lifejacket must fit properly.

*Attendant grabs a small child's size lifejacket and gives it to the adult to put on.*

**Sidekick**

This lifejacket doesn't fit very well does it? Now we need a child to come forward to try on a lifejacket.

*Sidekick grabs an adult size lifejacket and gives it to the child to put on.*

**Bobbie**

Wow. It sure is big.

*Sidekick takes hold of neck strap and lifts the lifejacket off the child.*

**Bobbie**

\_\_\_\_\_ that lifejacket doesn't look like it fits very well at all.

**Sidekick**

That's right Bobbie. It doesn't fit very well. This can be very dangerous. Now let's try a proper fitting lifejacket.

**Sidekick** *grabs a proper fitting child size vest and gives it to the child to put on*

**Sidekick**

See how nicely this one fits.

**Sidekick** *grabs the lifejacket by the collar and lifts the child off the ground*

**Bobbie**

Oh I like that.

There are different lifejackets for kids, aren't there?

**Sidekick**

Yes Bobbie, there are.

*Attendant shows the different sizes of child's lifejackets. Infant, child and youth.*

**Sidekick**

And there are different types for adults too.

**Sidekick** *shows the different types of adult life jackets.*

**Sidekick**

Well Bobbie, I think we've covered all the important points about lifejackets. Do you have anything to add?

**Bobbie**

I agree. I think we've covered all the points. Should we do a review of all the things we've learned today?

**Sidekick**

That's a great idea. Let's review what we've learned today. Bobbie would you like to tell everyone the rules about lifejackets and maybe some of our friends here would like to help.

**Bobbie**

How many lifejackets must be on the boat?

**Audience**

Responds

**Bobbie**

Your lifejacket must fit properly.

**Sidekick**

What a great job everybody did of remembering the rules. It's now time for Bobbie and me to go. Thank you for being such a wonderful group. I hope you enjoy the rest of your day and remember to be safe around boats and water. It doesn't matter if you're on a boat, at a lake or swimming pool, dock or shore. Just remember that .

**Bobbie**

Safety first is the rule, follow it and you'll be cool.  
What's my saying? Don't just pack it, wear your  
lifejacket To float like me, wear your PFD

REPEAT It!

I can't hear you Shout It! (REPEAT)

Very good. Bye-bye.

*Bobbie closes his eyes and the attendant puts his  
blanket on him*

**The End.**  
**Bobbie the Safety Boat**  
**Lesson Plan 2 – "Water and Boating  
safety"**  
**Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary**

**Target Audience:** small children

**Audience Size:** small to medium

**Team Participants** - Operator  
- Sidekick

**Resource Material** – Bobbie's floatation kit bag, kid size PFDs and  
lifejackets, some things that float, rope, sticks, a beach ball, life  
jacket, cooler, boat hook, etc  
- 4 small kids chairs

**Venue** – Indoor/Outdoor

- classroom, stage, CBS Trailer

**OVERVIEW**

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educational information. But most of all Bobbie maintains their attention so they don't forget what they have learned.

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The lesson plan below provides direction as well as general content to be taught. But the entertainment value Bobbie provides is up to you. Have fun with him. You will find that Bobbie easily wins hearts and minds of his audience.

Prior to the introduction Bobbie should be out of sight of the children if possible. If this isn't possible then have Bobbie placed off to the side of the presentation area with eyes closed (sleeping).

### **Sidekick**

Hello everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I'm with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and I'm here to teach you all about water and boating safety. Today I brought a very special friend with me, he's a little Safety Boat and his name is Bobbie. He loves children and he is the smartest little boat in the whole wide world. One of the things Bobbie and I are going to talk about is wearing life jackets or personal floatation devices --PFDs for short - every time you go in a boat or even in certain situations when you are swimming."

Bobbie is having a nap right now. Do you think we should wake him up?  
*(BOBBIE MOVES SLIGHTLY UNDER THE BLANKET)*

**Sidekick:**(IN WONDER)

What's this now? What do you think this is?

**Audience**

Responds

*(SIDEKICK TAKES OFF COVER)*

**Sidekick**

On the count of three, let's all say, "Wake up Bobbie!"

I think he's waking up! Hi Bobbie!

**Bobbie**

Oh hello \_\_\_\_\_do you have some friends here?

Where are we ? Who are these kids ?

**Sidekick**

You can come over don't be shy because they're not so sure about you either.

**Bobbie**

Can I just stay here for a little while?

**Sidekick**

Sure but first why don't you introduce yourself and say why you are here ?

**Bobbie**

Uh Hello everyone, my name is Bobbie and I'm here to help \_\_\_\_\_ tell you about being safe on the water and on boats.

*Bobbie then tentatively moves closer*

**Sidekick**

Bobbie, you have some rules about water and boating safety don't you?

**Bobbie**

That's right. I have six rules, shall we tell everybody about them?

**Sidekick**

That sounds like a great idea. OK Bobbie, what is your number one rule for water and boating safety?

**Bobbie**

Don't just pack it, wear your lifejacket To float like me, wear your PFD

**Sidekick**

Q: What does PFD stand for? (ANSWERS) Personal Flotation Device - PFD It's a vest that helps you float In the water Why is it important to wear your life jacket or PFD when you go on a boat?

**Audience**

Responds

**Sidekick**

A: In case the boat tips over or you fall into the water.

Can you imagine what it would be like to try to put on a lifejacket if you fell into the water? What if you fell out of your boat and couldn't reach your lifejacket. It's always much safer to wear your lifejacket all the time. Life jackets are like seat belts or car seats. We always wear our seat belts for safety when we are in the car, don't we? When we are boating, on the dock or near water we should always wear our lifejackets.

(Try on life jackets.)

**Bobbie**

Remember, kids. Lifejackets float, you don't.

**Sidekick**

OK Bobbie, what is your number 2 rule for water and boating safety?

**Bobbie**

Never ride on the bow of a boat because you might fall in and you may not float.

**Sidekick**

Some boats are not designed with seats in the bow and if there are no seats then we should never ride on the bow of a boat. (*Sidekick touches Bobbie*)

**Bobbie**

That tickles!

**Sidekick**

If you ride on the bow, and the boat hits a large wave, you might fall in and the boat could run over you. It is much safer to ride in the back where the seats are, and always be safe by wearing your PFD or life jacket.

Also remember, never stand up in a small boat.

**Bobbie**

Some day I hope to become a big boat like my dad!

**Sidekick**

A small boat can easily be rocked by waves and you might fall out. Stay seated and you'll be much safer and always wear your PFD or life jacket.

Now let's learn about the 3<sup>rd</sup> rule. Why shouldn't we go into the water after somebody who falls in? Bobbie, tell us what we need to remember.

**Bobbie**

If somebody falls in, and they can't swim, reach or throw but never go in. What can you do to help them? (Picks a child.)

**Audience**

Kids respond

**Sidekick**

When someone falls in the water and they can't swim they might panic and pull you under. Even though you might be able to swim, it's safer if you stay in the boat or on the shoreline and reach or throw

something to them. There are many things you could reach or throw to them. Can you think of one, Bobbie?

**Bobbie**

A beach ball, maybe.

**Sidekick**

That is it, Bobbie. A beach ball, life jacket, cooler, boat hook, stick or rope. Anything that might float or they could grab to hold onto.

Don't forget to always call or send for help. Bobbie, is there a number people can call?

**Bobbie**

9-1-1.

**Sidekick**

That's right. If you can't have someone else call 911.

**Audience**

*Kids can participate in a fun exercise by throwing floating objects to another kids who is a simulated victim. Bobby and sidekick call kids up. Bobbie asks their names, runs siren lights while child is "drowning". Bobbie cheers when the child is saved (flashing lights) and thanks the kids.*

**Sidekick**

Bobbie what can you tell us about rule no. 4.

**Bobbie**

Always swim with a buddy in a supervised area.

**Sidekick**

That's right. If you were to get into trouble and need help there would be someone there to help you. Swimming alone is not safe and we should always swim in a supervised area. Does anyone know what that means?

Who would be a good supervisor when we go swimming in the lake or off the boat or at the swimming pool?

**Audience**

*Kids respond*

**Sidekick**

You're right, a lifeguard, mom, dad or any adult that was present; they would be the right people to help you.

Bobbie, what's the fifth rule we need to know.

**Bobbie**

Rule #5 is look before you leap. Why shouldn't we leap into the lake from a boat or rocky ledge to go swimming?

**Audience**

Kids respond

**Sidekick**

That's right. In a lake, stream or ocean we don't know what's under the surface of the water. There could be rocks or tree stumps, so leaping into the water off a boat or rocky ledge is not a very safe thing to do. You should carefully enter the water and learn what's there so you don't get injured.

**Sidekick**

There is one important thing you should learn to do before you spend time around the water to always be safe. Does anyone know what it is?

*(Bobbie picks a child.)*

**Audience**

Kids respond

**Bobbie**

That's right. Rule #6 is we should all learn to swim.

**Sidekick**

Swimming lessons can be great fun. There are many organizations that teach swimming. Remember to tell mom and dad that Bobbie said that you should take swimming lessons before you go boating or swimming at a pool or lake to make summertime safe and lots of fun.

Bobbie has two other very important things to tell you.

**Bobbie**

That's right! They are pollution and cold water. Why?

**Audience**

Responds.

**Bobbie**

Pollution is something that we all should be concerned about. Can anyone tell me what pollution is?

**Audience**

Kids respond

**Bobbie**

We should never pump or throw waste or bilge water overboard.

**Sidekick**

Do you know what waste water is?

**Audience**

*(MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW)*

**Sidekick**

That's right Waste water is water that goes down the drain after we wash dishes or take a shower or go to the bathroom. Well on a boat that water stays on the boat and it is emptied out only after you come back to shore If you dump dirty water in the lake or river or ocean, that pollutes and is not good for fish or animals or people.

Bobbie, what's bilge water?\*\*\*

Bilge water is the water that has leaked into the boat and mixed with gas or oil - that water also pollutes

**Bobbie**

Another thing that pollutes is trash or garbage. Can you name some kinds of trash or garbage that might collect on a boat?

**Audience**

Plastic water bottles, cans, gum wrappers

**Bobbie**

What should that rule be?

**Audience**

Kids respond

**Bobbie**

Always put garbage in a proper garbage can and never throw it in the water.

Hey \_\_\_\_\_ how would you like to tell the kids about the dangers of cold water.

**Sidekick**

I would be happy to. The waters in our lakes and rivers and oceans are very cold even in the middle of summer. These waters are so cold that you can get something called hypothermia. Does anyone know what hypothermia is?

**Audience**

Kids respond

*(Bobbie shivers.)*

**Sidekick**

That's right! Does Bobbie seem cold to you? The water is so cold that you lose your body heat and start to shiver and if you get colder, you could lose your ability to swim and then you may drown. That is why it's so important to wear your PFD or lifejacket.

Bobbie, how about if we review what we've learned today? And kids, why don't you help Bobbie.

**Bobbie**

OK kids, repeat the rules after me.

#1 I always wear my lifejacket or PFD

What is that rule again? I can't hear you.

And what is a PFD - Personal Floatation Device ?

#2 I always sit in the back of the boat.

#3 I never jump to help.

#4 I swim with an adult.

#5 I look before I leap.

#6 I learn to swim.

Oh yea, and remember not to pollute, and don't forget about hypothermia! (SHIVERS)

**Sidekick**

What a great job everybody did of remembering the rules. (Siren.)

It's now time for Bobbie and I to go. Bobbie has to go and have a nap.

Thank you for being such a wonderful group. I hope you enjoy the rest of your day and remember to be safe around boats and water. It doesn't matter if you're on a boat, at a lake or swimming pool, dock or shore just remember that

**Bobbie**

Safety first is the rule, follow it and you'll be cool.

What's my saying? Don't just pack it, wear your lifejacket To float like me, wear your PFD

REPEAT It!

I can't hear you Shout It! (REPEAT)

Very good. Bye-bye.

**Sidekick**

Can someone help me put Bobbie to sleep? (Picks someone to help.)

*Bobbie closes his eyes and attendant puts his blanket on him*

**The End.**