



## Introduction

In this programme, children from Kilkeel Playgroup visit the local lifeboat station to learn about the work of the lifeboat men. They meet some of the crew and climb on board a lifeboat. Later the children have the opportunity to observe closely some animals that live in the sea.

The Hurley Burley Man reads a story called "The Upside-down Boat" and sings a song about different kinds of boats.

## Learning Opportunities

### The Arts

- Explore and use a range of materials to create pictures and models
- Paint/draw pictures from direct observation of objects, *e.g. star fish*
- Listen to music/songs related to the sea
- Engage in role play related to the lifeboat

### Language Development

- Understand and use language associated with boats/sea
- Handle picture and information books
- Listen to stories
- Listen to/learn rhymes and songs

### Early Mathematical Experiences

- Understand and use language associated with size, position and direction *e.g., front, back, sideways*
- Count small numbers of objects
- Compare sizes of objects using appropriate language *e.g., thick/thin long/short, heavy/light, large/small*

### Personal Social and Emotional Development

- Explore emotions, *e.g. fear during storms at sea*

- Talk about the dangers of the sea, and the importance of lifeboat men working together to keep safe at sea
- Learn about people in the community who help others
- Understand the importance of wearing appropriate clothing

### **Physical Development and Movement**

- Physical skills of climbing/swimming/rowing
- Fine motor skills e.g. *fastening coats, painting, drawing, cutting, sticking, modelling, catching fish with a magnet*

### **The World Around Us**

- Observe and respect living things e.g. *the way they move*
- Explore and create an area of interest e.g. *a seascape*
- Learn about the work of lifeboat men
- Learn about different types of boats
- Investigate floating and sinking

### **Suggested Activities**

- Talk about the different boats and ships and reinforce this with picture and information books. Then make a giant wall display using the children's own observational drawings
- Create a seascape using a variety of materials e.g. paint, crayon, clay, scrap materials and everyday objects such as fishing nets
- Make a weather chart for the wall that the children can change daily
- Encourage the children to talk about the clothes they wear for wet weather e.g. why we need boots, raincoats and umbrellas Talk about what lifeboat men wear and why
- Gather together some waterproof and porous materials. Use a watering can to show how some materials repel water and some absorb it. Let the children predict.
- Put a range of materials beside the water tray to allow the children to investigate which materials float and which sink. Make a simple fishing game by painting some card 'fish' shapes and putting a paper clip on the noses of the fish. Make a sea out of coloured paper. Encourage

the children to try to catch the fish with a magnet suspended from a string.

- Look at ropes and chains. Try and get an assortment of sizes and lengths. Let the children learn about thick and thin, heavy and light, long and short etc.
- Talk about how we move. Ask the children to move sideways like a crab or wave their tentacles about like a sea anemone.
- Use a range of stories, songs and rhymes about the wind and weather, the sea, boats, fixing things and the creatures of the sea.
- Talk about others in the community who help us