HOW TO TURN A FISHING TRIP INTO AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Fishing can be a great way to spend the day outdoors but it can also be a learning experience. Showing our kids how to tie a knot, rig a rod, cast, set a hook and reel a fish in are skills we teach them.

There are other ways of helping new or young anglers sharpen their skills. Turn fishing trips into learning experiences that will help them become successful anglers for years to come. Lesson number one requires consistent record keeping.

A. <u>KEEP A FISHING JOURNAL</u>

OBJECTIVES: Kids will be able to:

- Name and describe the species of fish they catch.
- Learn successes and failures of fishing patterns and trends.
- Learn how to adjust to changing angling conditions.
- Sharpen fishing skills as well as lure / bait and tackle selection.

METHOD: Kids will record important information in a fishing journal that will help them over time become more successful anglers.

MATERIALS: A fishing journal, clipboard, pen or pencil or any fishing journal app.

OVERVIEW: Keep a journal of the fish you catch by using the Department web site or a fish identification app on your cell phone. Take pictures of the different types of fish you catch and record the species, size, bait used, time of day, weather conditions and rigging / tackle used. Over time, this cumulative information can be very useful for future fishing trips and add to your success as an angler.

VOCABULARY:

GPS – Global Positioning System – Allows people with electronic devices to determine their location.

SPECIES – Groups of living things like plants, birds, animals and fish that share common characteristics.

RIG – Something that is assembled and adjustable, in this case a rigged fishing rod with tackle and reel.

BAIT – A substance used on the end of a fishing hook to attract and catch fish. Traditionally, worms, insects, fish eggs and smaller fish have been used. Today, plastic baits have become more common.

LURE – An artificial bait designed to attract a fish's attention. Lures use movement, color, sound and vibrations and can imitate many living creatures fish feed upon.

LANDED – When a fish is hooked and brought to the shore successfully.

IDENTIFYING YOUR CATCH:

New Mexico game fish are classified into two major groups; cold water and warm water species. To look up game fish species go to the Department web site at <u>https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us</u>. Click on the <u>Fishing Tab</u>, click <u>Game Fish Regulations</u> and scroll to <u>Cold Water Species</u> or <u>Warm Water Species</u> for fish identification.

CREATE A FISHING JOURNAL

You can purchase or create a journal to fit your children's needs. Here is an example of a fishing journal page.

DATE : _____ LOCATION: _____

GPS coordinates: _____

TIME OF DAY: (circle one) Early morning, Mid-morning, Early afternoon, Late afternoon.

WEATHER & WATER:
Temperature of air _____ Water Temperature _____
Wind Chill Temperature _____
Wind Conditions   Calm _____ Gentle Breeze _____ Slight Gusts _____
                        Strong Gusts _____

WEATHER CONDITIONS: (check one)   Clear _____ Cloudy _____
                Partly Cloudy _____   Rain _____   Drizzle /sleet _____

RIG SET UP: _____

LURES / FLIES USED : _____

BAIT USED : _____

CATCH LOG:
Species _____

Length _____

Weight _____

 Hooked / Landed _____

 Kept / Released _____