



## Best Advice for Fishing with Kids

**Keep it simple** - Your child just wants to spend time with you.

- ❖ Kids can only take in so much information at any given time – don't overwhelm and overload them.
- ❖ A pier, dock or shore is a great place to start.
- ❖ You can find ready-to-go outfits in most major sporting goods stores that are made specifically for kids.

**Have fun** - Don't worry about technique.

- ❖ For a child, a small fish caught with a simple hook and bobber is a major achievement. *For some children, a big fish might be scary!*
- ❖ Bring a lot of patience – it often seems like kids have never even heard of that word!
- ❖ Don't force your child to fish for hours on end. A child cannot focus for long hours spent sitting and holding a rod.
- ❖ Let your child help as much as possible. While you explain the gear and the procedures, show them how things work.
- ❖ Don't force a child to touch or de-hook a fish. Do it for them by carefully and respectfully handling the catch. Allow them to touch only if they want to and it's safe.
- ❖ Spring fishing is a good way to introduce children to fishing, because there can be lots of action. This is more fun and interesting for the child.
- ❖ Have a friendly competition with a very simple prize. For example, you could play that the person who catches the first, largest or strangest looking fish gets the first or biggest candy bar or other snack.
- ❖ Explain the reason for catch and release.
- ❖ Use fishing to teach good safety habits.
- ❖ Be encouraging and supportive, take pictures, and laugh a lot.

Adapted from: [www.angelfire.com/ia3/fishing/kidsnfishin.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/ia3/fishing/kidsnfishin.htm)

