

Casting to the Backyard Bass

Time Frame: 15-20 minutes

Age: 7 and up

Group Size: 20-25

Setting: Indoors, outdoors

Staff: 1-2

Use: Out-of-class

NYS Learning Standards:

MST-Section 4: Living Environment

Students will: understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical setting and living environment and recognize the historical development of ideas in science.

- *Key Idea 7:* Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the physical and living environment.

Objectives:

- ✓ Students will be able to cast a fishing rod on their own
- ✓ Students will be able to safely and properly cast a fishing rod

Motivation: Game

Materials: 2-3 fishing rods with plugs, Backyard Bass, fishing rod with hook and bobber/sinker (optional), 2-3 hula-hoops (optional)

Pre-Lesson Procedures:

Set up Casting Field (5 minutes)

1. Set up two casting fields with equal Backyard Bass.
 - a. Pick an open area.
 - b. Be wary of trees or other objects participants can snag.
2. Use hula-hoops as markers for participants to stand in while casting.

Lesson Procedures:

Introduction (1-2 minutes)

1. Introduce self and I FISH NY program.
2. Introduce activity.

Casting to Backyard Bass (10-15 minutes)

1. Introduce the proper use of a fishing rod. For example, while using a spincasting rod, demonstrate the following:
 - a. Thumb on the button – plug doesn't move
 - b. Take thumb off the button – plug moves
 - c. One turn of the handle locks the fishing line
 - d. Don't reel in all the way; so the plug doesn't get stuck in the top guide
2. Explain casting to the Backyard Bass.
 - a. Two lines to cast into fishing area

- b. Demonstrate how to stand and cast with fishing rod
 - i. Press and hold button
 - ii. Look behind you
 - iii. Bring rod back to 2 o'clock
 - iv. Cast; take finger off of button when rod is at 11 o'clock
 - v. Turn rod handle to lock line
3. Debrief casting; review steps.
4. Introduce rod safety with hook and bobber.
 - a. Hold the fishing rod with one hand and a 2-finger pinch on leader line with the other hand.
 - b. Always walk like this; for example when:
 - i. Need new bait
 - ii. Need new rod
 - iii. Finished fishing
 - iv. Moving fishing spots
 - c. No running with rod.
 - d. During the game, cast and retrieve; when fishing with bobber set up, cast and wait for fish to bite.
 - i. Will know by bobber going under water
 - ii. Hold line in fingers as another way to "know" that fish is biting

Closing (1-2 minutes)

1. Reminders:
 - a. Proper way to cast
 - b. Safety techniques for walking with a fishing pole
2. Invite questions.