

## **5. Future Buddies**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This program is designed to provide children between the ages of 8 and 12, an introduction to scuba diving in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of an active instructor.

### **5.2 Qualifications of Graduates**

There are no specific qualifications available after graduation

### **5.3 Who May Teach**

An active SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor

### **5.4 Student to Instructor Ratio**

#### **Academic**

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter.

#### **Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)**

1. A maximum of 2 students per instructor

#### **Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)**

1. N/A

### **5.5 Student Prerequisites**

1. Minimum age 8 with parental consent
2. Demonstrate comfort and adequate swimming skills

### **5.6 Course Structure and Duration**

#### **Confined Water Execution**

1. Training depth must not exceed 6 metres / 20 feet
2. One dive required, second dive optional
3. All dives must be completed during daylight hours and with adequate lighting conditions

**Course Structure**

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

**Duration**

1. The suggested number of training hours is 4

**5.7 Administrative Requirements****Administrative Tasks:**

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students complete the:
  - a. *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
  - b. *SDI Medical Statement Form*

**Upon successful completion of the course the instructor may:**

1. Issue an SDI Experience card, optional

**5.8 Required Equipment**

Basic open water scuba equipment as described earlier in section two of this manual. The exception to this is that a dive computer is not required, however it is highly recommended.

**5.9 Required Subject Areas**

**Instructors may use any additional text or materials that they feel help present these topics. The following topics must be covered during this course:**

1. History of Diving
2. The Aquatic Environment
  - a. Marine environment
  - b. Marine life
3. Physics and Physiology
  - a. Buoyancy
  - b. Pressure
  - c. Air spaces
  - d. Equalization techniques
  - e. Lung over-expansion problems

4. Breathing air under pressure
5. Scuba Equipment
  - a. Mask, fins and snorkel
  - b. Exposure protection
    - i. Wetsuits
  - c. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD)
  - d. Regulator
    - i. Primary regulator
    - ii. Alternate air source
  - e. Cylinders
  - f. Weight systems
  - g. Underwater instruments
    - i. Submersible pressure gauge
    - ii. Dive computers
    - iii. Depth gauges
6. Accessories
  - a. Dive flag

## **5.10 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements**

**The required skills should be performed in confined water with a maximum depth of 6 metres / 20 feet:**

1. Weight system adjustment with proper weighting
2. Pre-dive check of self and buddy
3. Mask clearing; partial
4. Buoyancy compensator device (BCD) use
  - a. Inflation using low pressure inflator and deflation, at the surface
5. Buoyancy Control
  - a. Controlled ascents and descents
6. Regulator use
7. Underwater swimming; proper use of fins
8. Use of gauges
9. Underwater communications

**In order to complete this course, students must:**

1. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution