

On the Water with Rick Daniels

Kids & Fishing ... do they mix?

Take your children fishing, but know their limitations. I get a similar call, similar the the following scenario, about once a month during fishing season. Uncle George or Grandpa have younger children staying with them for a couple of weeks and want to take them for a six hour Musky trip. That may be great for Uncle George or Grandpa, but not so much for small children. Sitting in a boat for a good part of the day while someone else is trolling or casting for Musky doesn't cut it.

After several years of doing fishing charters, I have found that young children have a very short attention span. They don't do well in a confined area like a boat for long periods of time, and they need to constantly participate. A two hour fishing trip is perfect.

Also, most young children *don't care* how big the fish is and some are even frightened by big fish. I find that fishing with just worms with small hooks, targeting sunfish and perch works great! You can even have mini competitions for the most sunfish, most perch and on and on.

Most children have trouble handling fishing rods made for adults and where the adults make their mistake is buying a "Spiderman" or "Barbie" type fishing rod for their children. These are usually toys or very low end equipment with substandard line. Look for an "Ultra-Light Combo" on sale. These units are slightly bigger than the toy rods and much smaller than the adult rods, just right for children. Also, they fit in any car trunk and most suitcases. I have two ultra-lights and they are my favorite rods. Your child will *never* outgrow it.

Make sure they use the bathroom prior to getting in the boat and dress them in layers. You can't put on what you don't take, but you can always peel off clothes. Sunblock, sunglasses and a hat are also very important for children, or anyone for that matter. A light snack and water are always a good idea even for a short trip.

Good Luck and Happy Fishing!

Rick Daniels is the Owner/Operator of Chemong Lake Fishing Charters: www.kawarthafishing.com MuskyGuide@bell.net

Chemong Lake Fishing Charters

Specializing in Musky, Bass and Panfish on beautiful Chemong Lake

Rick Daniels
705.292.5449
MuskyGuide@bell.net

Complete info available on our website
www.KawarthaFishing.com



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