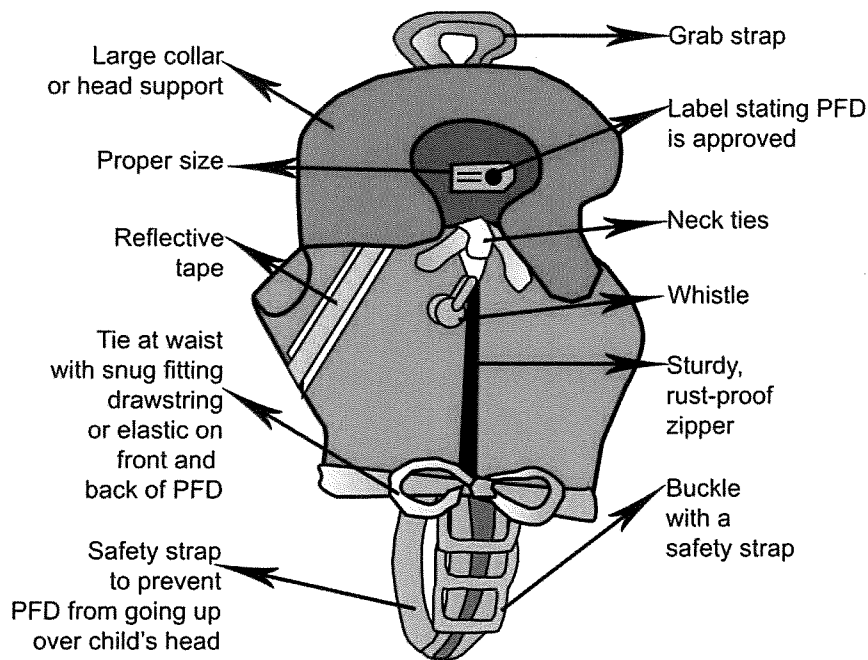# Personal Flotation Devices for Children

80% of boaters who drowned were not wearing a PFD or lifejacket at the time of the incident.

Did you know that most people who drown never intended to be in the water? Many of them were simply enjoying boating activities or playing near the water. Since they didn't intend to enter the water, they weren't wearing a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD).

Approved lifejackets or PFDs are a critical part of water safety. There must be an appropriate flotation device for every person on board the vessel. Most on-water enforcement agencies have a zero tolerance policy towards disobeying this regulation. Stay safe and wear your lifejacket at all times!

In a PFD look for these important features

Large collar or head support
Proper size
Reflective tape
Tie at waist with snug fitting drawstring or elastic on front and back of PFD
Safety strap to prevent PFD from going up over child's head

Grab strap
Label stating PFD is approved
Neck ties
Whistle
Sturdy, rust-proof zipper
Buckle with a safety strap

> **Remember Always Try The Jacket On Before You Buy It!**
>
> It should fit snugly, make sure that it does not slip over chin and ears.
>
> If there are more than 3 inches between the child's shoulders and the PFD, it is **TOO** big.

Size	Infant Less than 30lbs	Child small 30-50lbs	Child Medium 30-50lbs	Youth 50-90lbs
Age	Newborn to 2 years old	2 to 5 years old	4 to 8 years old	6 to 12 years old
Chest	16-20" circumference	20 - 25" circumference	21-25" circumference	26-29"circumference
Features of child/infant	• Rounded body • Large head • Short limbs	• Short torso • Protruding tummy • Stocky shape	• Large torso than toddler • No waistline • Slimmer than toddler	• Beginning waistline • Slim/chunky • Short to average height

Tips for selecting a PFD for kids

1. Consider the child's swimming ability. A Type II Child Vest (large collar) may be more suitable for children who are non-swimmers due to greater buoyancy.
2. Age and experience with lifejackets-children should learn how to relax and gain control of their bodies with supplemental buoyancy. Adult supervision and support is critical.
3. Choose the right jacket for the activity
4. And check the sizing