

THE FIRST DOLPHIN

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Now they both understood it. It wasn't that difficult, and it was very similar to a sports game, without it being a competition.

Or was it a bit of a competition? One to becoming a better diver, but with yourself as the only participant. It is not a contest against others, or to getting a Dolphin as fast as possible. No, you have to train in the pool and then dive in open water. That way you become a better diver and earn a Dolphin. First you get bronze, then silver, and finally gold. It is only when you turn 14 that you can earn your first divers star.

The colour of Dolphin shows everyone how much you know about diving and how well you can dive. It is a bit like a school report, but for diving, and without an exam. Your dive leader will also quickly know what you can do, depending on your Dolphin.

"When will I get my bronze Dolphin?" asked Skubba.

"One more dive and your booklet will be full. Then you get a card like this one, but with a dolphin on it," Nella explained.

She opened the door of her car and pulled out a large case. She reached inside it and said "Ha, there it is".

She pulled her hand out and showed Skubba a card that was very similar to what his Dad puts in a cash machine at the bank when he needs money. It was almost the same, but it had two golden stars on it.

They looked at it as if it was the key to a whole new world.

"Nice!" said Skubba.

"These two gold stars show that you are an instructor?" Fred asked.

"That's right," said Nella proudly.

"Can you only get dolphins or stars for diving? Are there sharks or frogs?" enquired Fred further.

"No, there are no other animals to earn." she laughed.

"So only Dolphins for us?" he insisted.

"Yes, and no. Besides the Dolphins, you can add other qualifications. For example, you can learn how to take underwater photos. Or how to offer help if a diver is in trouble."

"Didn't we already see that in the pool?" Fred asked.

"Yes, but we can learn even more on how we can help another diver," was her reply.

"Interesting."

"I will tell you all about it later if you want, but before you can take on other qualifications, you must first obtain your silver Dolphin," Nella continued.

Skubba had not followed the conversation about qualifications. He was daydreaming about the moment he would get his first Dolphin. Perhaps tomorrow? And what would it be like to then get his first star?

When he heard the word 'diving' however, it pulled him straight out of his daydream and back to the conversation.

He looked at Nella and asked, "When are we going to dive?"

