



Bringing Up Baby
Teacher Copy

Hope's Story

This is the story of Hope, a rescued dolphin calf at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium., When Hope was only 2 months old, her mother became very sick and passed away. Hope was an orphan., left all alone and separated from her wild family. Luckily, someone saw that Hope was in distress and called a local rescue group. They brought Hope to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where she was cared for around the clock.

It is a lot of hard work caring for a baby dolphin. You have to prepare her food, clean her tank, do lots of laundry, and teach her many new behaviors. Growing up at CMA is very different from growing up in the wild. The CMA team works very hard to give Hope a happy and healthy life.

Here are some of the differences between growing up in the wild and growing up at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

In the wild, a baby dolphin calf is cared for by her mother and other related female dolphins.



An orphaned baby dolphin is found and brought to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium by rescuers. She will be cared for around the clock by CMA's skilled stranding team

**In the wild, the calf is fed directly by her mother.
Her mother's milk contains a lot of fat and protein
to help her grow.**



The rescued calf must drink milk from a bottle to get the nutrients she needs to survive. At first, she struggles but, over time, she learns to accept the bottle and drinks eagerly.

The mother dolphin teaches her calf many different life skills, like avoiding dangerous predators. The mother dolphin keeps the calf by her side to protect her and keep her healthy and safe.



CMA team members teach the calf “husbandry” behaviors, such as laying still for a check-up, displaying her tail for a blood draw, and being lifted from the water to be weighed. These behaviors help the team to care for the dolphin calf.

The calf mimics her mother and learns to swim quickly, slap her tail, and even jump high out of the water!



The CMA team also teaches the calf high energy jumps or “bows” for exercise and gives her toys for playing and for learning!

The mother dolphin begins teaching her calf to hunt for food. The calf must learn which fish are good to eat and which ones she should avoid.



Slowly, the CMA team encourages the calf to eat fish. They must practice with her each day until she learns to swallow whole fish on her own. These fish are carefully inspected and prepared to make sure they are healthy and nutritious for the baby dolphin.

**Eventually, the calf will leave her mother's side.
Many calves remain with their family groups their
entire lives, while some leave and find other
dolphin families to swim and hunt with.**



Once the calf is able to eat fish on her own, she meets the other resident female dolphins at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Their names are Panama and Winter, and they were all rescued from the wild too!

Frequently Asked Questions: Hope

What kind of dolphin is Hope?

Hope is an Atlantic Bottlenose dolphin. Bottlenose dolphins live in temperate and tropical waters worldwide.

How did Hope get her name?

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium held a naming competition for their newest resident. There were over 1,000 entries, and Hope's name was chosen from those entries.

WILL Hope be released?

No, Hope will live at CMA forever. Although we can teach dolphins quite a lot, we will never be able to teach her the survival skills her mother would have in the wild.

WHAT IS Hope'S Favorite THING to do?

Hope likes to learn new behaviors, play with guests at her viewing windows, and blow bubbles underwater so that she can chase them to the surface!

HOW CAN I HELP Hope?

You can adopt Hope! You won't be able to take her home, but the money you donate goes towards taking care of her! You'll receive monthly updates about how she is doing and progress in her training and growth.

