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**Students learn Heimlich Maneuver in health class**

Denise Furlan helps fourth-grader Connor Curtis with his form during Thursday's lesson on the Heimlich maneuver.



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Fourth-grader Allyson Tuttle is all smiles after successfully dislodging foam from the dummy doll's throat.

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Fourth-grader Harley Szymczak answers Mrs. Furlan's question prior to giving the Heimlich maneuver a shot.



2 / 4

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Thomas Jefferson Elementary School student teacher Denise Furlan points out the trachea, the part of the throat that is blocked when a person is choking, during her class on the Heimlich maneuver on Jan. 21.

By [Staff](#)

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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - They look like oversized dolls, but look a little bit closer and you can see these dolls are special. Thomas Jefferson Elementary School students learned how to properly perform the Heimlich maneuver on a choking victim during health classes, and it's a lot easier with interactive dolls provided by the "Heimlich Heroes" program.

Student teacher Denise Furlan taught the program, she worked with Thomas Jefferson Elementary Nurse Cindy Johnson. Furlan started by finding out what the students knew about choking, what can cause it, the history of the Heimlich, and when the right time would be to use the Heimlich Maneuver.

Once the students had a grasp of the dangers of choking, Furlan brought out the dolls. Each student had a chance to come to the front of the class and, using proper form taught by Furlan, dislodge a piece of foam from a doll's mouth. If the maneuver was done correct, the foam -- about the shape and size of a grape - would pop out of the doll's mouth to the floor.

The Rowan University student will spend time teaching health to the school's students through May, but her first lesson was on the Heimlich.