



Junior Level Lesson 4: The Dangers of Electricity - Staying Safe

Curricular Links

SESE › Energy and Forces › Magnetism and Electricity

SPHE › Myself › Safety and Protection

Objectives

1. Become aware of the dangers of electricity
2. Identify ways of being safe around electricity, as well as situations which can be unsafe
3. Identify how to stay safe with electricity in the local environment

Resources

Pencils, A4 paper, A4/A3 paper for class poster, Stay Safe, Stay Clear safety tips poster as part of the school's pack and also available as PDF at www.esbnetworks.ie/education. Electricity danger signs available at www.esbnetworks.ie/education.

Introduction

Play 'safe or unsafe' – describe different safe and unsafe situations with electricity using the Stay Safe, Stay Clear safety tips. Ask the pupils to give a 'thumbs up' action to indicate safe and 'thumbs down' for unsafe. For any unsafe situations ask the pupils to identify the appropriate safe behaviour. For example:

- "Yesterday, my friend and I were flying a kite. It got stuck in an overhead wire. We thought about pulling it down."
Is this Safe or Unsafe?
Note to the teacher: Remind your pupils to never go near an electricity wire.
- "I was playing in the park when I saw a wire on the ground. I told my mum immediately and she phoned the ESB Networks Emergency number immediately". Is this Safe or Unsafe?
Note to teacher: Never approach a fallen wire, always tell an adult to contact ESB Networks.

Development

- As a class, recap on 'electric shock' and the Stay Safe, Stay Clear safety tips from lesson 2 (see overleaf for safety tips and explanations). Display the Stay Safe, Stay Clear poster to help remind the pupils of ways of being safe around electricity. Also show them the electricity danger sign and discuss what the sign signifies.
- Having completed an 'Electricity Walk' in your local area in lesson 3, ask the pupils in groups, to think of and draw/write down any places in the local area where they need to Stay Safe, Stay Clear with electricity e.g. places which have electricity danger signs, the danger of sitting on a minipillar, staying clear of a local pylon, noting where there are trees near overhead wires. Discuss as a class and create a class poster - 'How we will stay safe with electricity in (Name of local area)'.

Conclusion

- Give each pupil an A4 page, asking them to pick one of the Stay Safe, Stay Clear safety tips and to create a poster to give other children the message about how to stay safe around electricity. Encourage them to give one clear message, using picture/s to reinforce it.
- These posters can be entered into the Stay Safe, Stay Clear with ESB Networks competition. Winning entrants will receive prizes for themselves and for their school and will be featured in a calendar that will be sent to Primary Schools Nationwide.

***Remember to always Stay Safe, Stay Clear with electricity!**



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Extension Activity

Ask pupils to illustrate in their copies, a way of being safe around electricity e.g. A fallen wire: Safe - A person phoning ESB Networks. First and Second Class pupils can label their pictures and write a short paragraph about how to stay safe around electricity.

For more information on the competition and for lots more resources about electricity go to www.esbnetworks.ie/education.

Stay Safe, Stay Clear with ESB Networks – Safety Tips

Stay away from places marked with a danger sign

The danger sign is there to warn you that something is harmful (and potentially fatal) if you aren't careful. You will see danger signs, for example, on electricity poles, pylons, electricity stations and mini pillars (on footpaths).

Never climb trees near overhead wires

Stay away from all overhead wires and never climb trees near them. Even if you don't touch the overhead wires, electricity could 'jump' through the air and electrocute you.

Never fly kites, helicopters or drones near overhead wires

Never fly kites near overhead wires. If your kite goes near the overhead wires - let it go! If it gets stuck, leave it there and call ESB Networks on 1800 372 999 or the Gardai. If the kite string is hanging down, don't touch it, as electricity can travel along the string.

Never fish near overhead wires

When you are fishing, keep clear of overhead wires. If the fishing rod or line touches or comes close to the wire, electricity could flow through the rod and injure or kill you. Always take your rod apart when moving from one location to another.

Never approach a fallen wire, tell an adult

Never ever touch or go near fallen wires. Tell an adult and call ESB Networks on 1800 372 999.

Never climb a pylon

Climbing electricity pylons is very dangerous. Even if you don't touch the overhead wires, electricity could 'jump' through the air and electrocute you.