



Junior Lesson Plan 2 – Staying Safe with Electricity

Objectives

1. Identify the safe and unsafe ways of using electricity and being safe around electricity
2. Explore how accidents can happen and what can be done to prevent them from happening

Introduction

Recap on what the class learned about electricity from lesson 1.

Draw a lightning bolt on the board (or alternatively show an image). Ask the children to explain what happens when a bolt of lightning hits a tree. Discuss how the same type of thing happens with an 'electric shock'. This is because electricity wants to get into the ground, or earth. Explain how sometimes people get shocks from faulty appliances and electrical fittings or if they go near electricity wires and poles outside.

Explain to the class that overhead power lines are all around us and can be very dangerous. There are lots of ways to remember how to stay safe around electricity.

Electrical warning signs

Show the class electricity danger signs and explain that this means to keep away from this area. They can be on electricity poles, electricity boxes or around pylons (danger signs can be downloaded from www.esbnetworks.ie/education)

Resources

Stay Safe, Stay Clear safety tips PDF, paper, pencils, colouring markers/crayons

Whole Class Activity

Download the Stay Safe, Stay Clear safety tips from www.esbnetworks.ie/education and display for the class to see.

Read through the tips and ensure the children understand the following:

- **Stay away from places marked with a danger sign.**
The danger sign is there as a warning that there is something 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 a kite 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.

Group Activity

Using A4 paper, ask the children to each pick one of the Stay Safe, Stay Clear safety tips and explain that they are to create a poster to tell other children how to be safe around electricity. It is important to encourage them to use just one clear message and use pictures to reinforce it.

These posters can be entered into the Stay Safe, Stay Clear with ESB Networks competition. Winning entries will receive a prize for their school and will be featured in a calendar that will be sent to Primary Schools nationwide.

For more information on the competition go to www.esbnetworks.ie/education



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Extension

Divide the children into groups. Allocate one of the Stay Safe, Stay Clear Safety Tips to each group. Instruct each group to role-play their situation. After a few minutes ask each group to present their role-play and discuss each one, noting the possible dangers as well as the ways of staying safe in such situations. For Junior and Senior Infants you may want to limit it and just look at two or three of the tips for the role-play.

Whole Class Activity

Use the poster to recap how to stay safe with electricity. Ask some of the children to share their posters and explain their message to the class.

Useful Websites

www.esbnetworks.ie/education

www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/primary-students/1st-+-2nd-class/science/how-things-work/using-electricity/