Child Safety and Accident Prevention
Lesson Objective

Time: 80 minute lesson

New York State Parenting Standard: Standard 1: Roles and Responsibilities; Standard 2: Growth and Development; Standard 3: Support Systems and Services

Aim: For students to understand the importance of child safety and accident prevention, and to be able to identify a safe environment for children.

Objectives: Students Will:

1. Discuss how and why accidents occur and what to do if an accident occurs.
2. Discuss how to prevent accidents, and how to keep a child safe in their environment.
3. View a video to help them understand the gravity of child abuse/Shaken baby syndrome.
4. Make a first-aid kit (optional) and/or engage in other learning activities about accident prevention.

Materials Needed:

Lesson outline, materials to make large magnet or sticker, “Look A like” products, purse activity/dangerous objects game, first-aid kit contents, Videos: “It’s a Jungle Out There: Lily Play’s it Safe” and/or “Portrait of a Promise” (shaken baby syndrome) see Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Recommended Parenting Education Resources, handout “Shaking Kills: Instead Parents Please Educate and Remember,” and “Safety and Accident Prevention” test.
Child Safety and Accident Prevention
Lesson Outline

I. Review child development and the importance of maintaining a safe environment.
   A. Discuss and note, safety concerns students have when working with young children.
      Refer to this later in the workshop.
   B. Identify dangerous times in a child’s development. Be specific re: accident risks for
different age groups.
   C. Providing a safe environment takes same preparation, but is well worth it! You must
think ahead of potential unsafe situations a child may get into– Must be one step
ahead of the child.

II. Look at accidents in stages:
   A. Pre event – before something happens
      1. When are accidents most likely to occur? (when a child is tired, hungry, a parent
         comes home from work, someone new comes to visit, when a child is exploring a
         new environment)
      2. What causes them to occur? (the caregivers attention is focused on something
         else, the child is not aware of his/her surroundings, the child doesn’t understand
         the danger, etc)
   B. Event – Discuss what to do when an accident occurs
      1. What should you do with a child when an accident occurs?
         a. Immediate response (encourage them to get certified in first aid, CPR)
         b. go to www.redcross.org/where/chaptsasp and type your ZIP code to find the
            website of your local chapter with class schedules and contact information.
         c. CPR Anytime – Kit available at a low cost at 877-242-4277 or
            www.cpranytime.org has an inflatable mannequin, an instruction booklet and a DVD
            that teaches you everything you need to know in just 22 minutes –
      2. Who should be called when an accident occurs? – brain storm ideas
         a. Emergency number(s) need to be readily available. – Have students create a
            magnet or sticker to have near the phone in their home, or to take with them when
            caring for another child.
   C. Post Event – after the accident
      1. Ask: What can we learn from this event that can help us to prevent it occurring
         again?
         a. Prevention (child proofing) is our best defense.
         b. Importance of giving young children our undivided attention.

III. Safety video or Slides
   A. View “It’s a Jungle Out There: Lily Plays is Safe” or other child safety video.
   B. How can we prevent the accidents identified in the video from happening?
      1. Prevention is our best defense.
   C. Discuss other common accidents
1. Car Safety - it is never safe to hold a child on your lap while riding in the car.
   a. Children must be in an age and weight appropriate child safety seat until age 5 or 100lbs (they are looking at changing this law to a higher age)
   b. Children must be in a rear-facing seat until at least age one.

2. Toy Safety - Babies and toddlers do not know what types of toys are safe for them to play with. Review choke tube- if an item can fit through a toilet paper roll it is too small for a very young child to play with (0-3yrs). It is the caregiver’s responsibility to keep unsafe items away from children.

3. Poison safety: If a child swallows a poisonous substance, you should have the container with you when you call the doctor or poison control. The poison control number should be posted in a visible location near the phone. They should be the first number you call.
   a. “Look A Likes” - share with students how harmless consumable products look very much like poisonous products (i.e. blue gatorade and blue windex, cooking spray and oven cleaner…)

4. Diaper changing safety: The safest place to change a baby’s diaper is on the floor.

5. Lead poisoning - cause and effects (learning disability, brain damage…) You could use this time to discuss the recent high levels of lead found in children’s toys.

6. Sudden infant death syndrome – SIDS - Ask students about the best sleeping position for infants
   a. On their back
   b. There should not be anything else in the crib ie. Blankets, bumpers, stuffed toys.

7. Shaking Baby syndrome view “Portrait of a Promise” video.
   a. As parents/caregivers we can reach our limits with a child. When in a position of losing our cool and potentially harming a child we need to know who we can call for support/relief and/or find a safe place (crib or child’s bedroom) to put the child while you walk to another part of the house to regain control.

8. Bike safety – a helmet must be warn by all children under 14 years of age.

VI. Home Safety
A. Dangerous objects game
   1. Stock a purse with common objects that could be dangerous for a young child.
   2. Have student pull each object from a purse, and discuss why each object could be dangerous to a child.
   3. Explain these objects are found all over – at grandma’s, the babysitter’s, etc.
   4. Discuss how to check for a childproof environment. Is your home safe for a child to enter?

   5. Homework
      a. Designate an age of a child for each student, have them go home and list any safety concerns they would have if a child that age came into their home.
      b. What would they do to address those safety concerns?
      c. Where could they go for help?
IV. Make a First Aid Kit
   A Reinforce Ipecac with Mr. Yuk poison control phone number
First Aid Kit contents --- One per family

1) Empty, sealable container - 1 each
2) 2x2 gauze pads - 2 each
3) Tot finder - 2 each
4) Ipecac syrup - 1 each (give poison control instructions first)
5) Bacitracin - Strip of 3
6) Outlet covers - 6 each
7) Cupboard Latches, door knob covers, etc. - As needed
8) 2 x 4” Band-Aids - 1 each
9) Regular Band-Aids - 4 of each
10) Alcohol prep pads - one strip of four each
11) 4x4” gauze pads - 1 each
12) Mr. Yuk stickers and info brochure - 1 each
13) Choke tubes - 1 each
Safety and Accident Prevention
TEST

Please answer True or False to the following questions:

1. __________ It is never safe to hold a child on your lap while riding in a car.

2. __________ A childproof home allows children to play more freely in the home.

3. __________ If a child swallows a poisonous substance, you should have the container with you when you call the doctor.

4. __________ Playing tag is a good way to cheer up a sick child.

5. __________ Babies and toddlers know what type and size of toys are safe to play with.

6. __________ The safest place to change a baby’s diaper is on the floor.

7. __________ Putting a gate in front of the staircase may not keep your child from falling down the stairs.

8. __________ The safest position for babies to sleep is on their back.

9. __________ Shaking a baby or toddler can cause permanent brain damage or even death.

10. Name three consequences of Shaken Baby Syndrome

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11. How can Shaken Baby Syndrome be prevented?

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Created by Denyse Variano and Mary E. Tracy Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County, New York - 2008
Safety and Health Concerns
TEST - ANSWERS

1. True It is never safe to hold a child on you lap while riding in a car.

2. True A childproof home allows children to play more freely in the home.

3. True If a child swallows a poisonous substance, you should have the container with you when you call the doctor.

4. False Playing tag is a good way to cheer up a sick child.

5. False Babies and toddlers know what type and size of toys are safe to play with.

6. True The safest place to change a baby’s diaper is on the floor.

7. True Putting a gate in front of the staircase may not keep your child from falling down the stairs.

8. True The safest position for babies to sleep is on their back.

9. True Shaking a baby or toddler can cause permanent brain damage or even death.

10. Name three consequences of Shaken Baby Syndrome

    Brain damage, blindness/impaired vision, death, spinal injury/paralysis, seizures, retardation – mild to severe, impaired development of motor and sensory skills, learning disabilities, broken and dislocated bones

11. How can Shaken Baby Syndrome be prevented?

    As parents/caregivers we can reach our limits with a child. When in a position of losing our cool and potentially harming a child we need to know who we can call for support/relief and/or find a safe place (crib or child’s bedroom) to put the child while you walk to another part of the house to regain control.