Safety Skills Contract
What can I do to protect myself and others in the lab?

Science equipment and supplies are fun to use. However, these materials must always be used with care. Here you will learn how to be safe in a science lab.

Start the investigation only after your teacher has given you permission to do so.
Always ask questions if you are unsure about the procedure or need help at any time during the investigation.
Follow verbal and written instructions before, during, and after the investigation.
Eating or drinking in the laboratory or from laboratory equipment is not permitted.
Tell your teacher about any accidents, spills, or injuries, even if it seems to be a small matter.
Your work area must be cleaned and all materials returned to their proper place when the investigation is completed.

Follow these basic safety guidelines

1. Prepare for each lab.
   a. Read the lab investigation sheets carefully.
   b. Take special note of safety instructions.
2. Listen to your teacher’s instructions before, during, and after the lab. Take notes to help you remember what your teacher has said.
3. Get ready to work: Roll long sleeves above the wrist. Tie back long hair. Remove dangling jewelry and any loose, bulky outer layers of clothing. Wear shoes that cover the toes.
4. Put on protective clothing (goggles, apron or tee-shirt, gloves) at the beginning of the investigation.
5. Emphasize teamwork. Help each other. Watch out for one another’s safety.
6. Clean up spills immediately. Clean up all materials and supplies after a lab.

Know what to do when...

working with electricity.
1. Always keep electric cords away from water.
2. Extension cords must not be placed where they may cause someone to trip or fall.
3. If an electrical appliance isn’t working, feels hot, or smells hot, tell a teacher right away.

disposing of materials and supplies.
1. Generally, liquid household chemicals can be poured into a sink. Completely wash the chemical down the drain with plenty of water.
2. Generally, solid household chemicals can be placed in a trash can.
3. Any liquids or solids that should not be poured down the sink or placed in the trash have special disposal guidelines. Follow your teacher’s instructions.
4. If glass breaks, do not use your bare hands to pick up the pieces. Use a dustpan and a brush to clean up. Do tell the teacher what happened.
5. Dissections should be placed in a plastic bag and the dissection tray washed. Use a paper towel to clean the sink of any dissection remains.

working with others because you are concerned about your safety and the safety of others.
1. Talk to your teacher immediately. Here are some examples:
   - You smell chemical or gas fumes. This might indicate a chemical or gas leak.
   - You smell something burning.
   - You injure yourself or see someone else who is injured.
   - You are having trouble using your equipment.
   - You do not understand the instructions for the lab.
2. Listen carefully to your teacher’s instructions.
3. Follow your teacher’s verbal and written instructions exactly.
Science Safety Contract

Life science is a hands-on laboratory class. However, science activities may have potential hazards. We will use some equipment that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure a safe classroom, a list of rules has been developed and is called the Science Safety Contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity.

No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until this contract has been signed by both the student and the parent/guardian. By checking the boxes and signing the contract, you agree to follow all the steps necessary to be safe in your science class and lab.

I, ______________________________________________, (Print your first and last name)

☐ Have learned about the use and location of the following:
  • Eye protection (goggles)
  • Eyewash fountain
  • Fire extinguisher and fire blanket
  • First aid kit

☐ Understand the safety information presented.

☐ Will ask questions when I do not understand safety instructions.

☐ Pledge to follow all of the safety guidelines that are presented on the Safety Skill Sheet at all times.

☐ Pledge to follow all of the safety guidelines that are presented on lab sheets.

☐ Pledge to follow the directions on the lab sheet and safety instructions that my teacher provides.

☐ Pledge to be careful about my own safety and to help others be safe for I am responsible for helping to create a safe environment in the classroom and lab.

☐ Understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I will not be allowed to participate in science activities.

__________________________________         ____________________________
Print first & last name                                                   Signature of student

__________________________________
Date

Parent’s or Guardian’s statement:

I have read the Safety Skills sheet and give my consent for the student who has signed the preceding statement to engage in laboratory activities using a variety of equipment and materials, including those described. I pledge my cooperation in urging that she or he observe the safety regulations prescribed.

__________________________________
Print parent or guardian’s name                                                   Signature of parent or guardian

__________________________________
Date