

Steps to Success

LESSON PLAN FOR SCHOOL VISITS



Theme: Water Safety



Grade level: K-3

The goal is to increase awareness of students (from kindergarten to third grade) about building safety and water safety.

Objectives:

- The students will learn about water safety and how the building, plumbing and green codes can help to ensure safe water and protect their families and communities.
- The students will recognize swimming pool and backyard safety tips.

Time: 45 minutes

Lesson Plan Summary:

1. Introduce the code official and the building safety department and how they fit in with other public safety professionals.
2. Briefly explain building codes and how they help keep safe the places where we live, work and play.
3. Explain the importance of clean water, conservation and efficiency. Explain how building, plumbing and green codes ensure safe and smart water use.
4. Review important backyard and pool safety tips.
5. Finish lesson with the following activity: Safety Scramble

Materials:

- Pictures or examples of pool and backyard safety tips including Backyard Safety [interactive poster](#)
- [10 Backyard and Pool Safety Tips](#) handout
- Inspector stickers (available for purchase)
- Building, plumbing or green code (free access available in [ICC Digital Codes Library](#))
- *CODiE* the Code Official's Building Safety Activity Book (available for download)
- Building Codes and Code Officials Keep Us Safe coloring book (available for download)
- Building safety pencils (available for purchase)
- Building safety vest (available for purchase)
- Building safety hats (available for purchase)



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Lesson Outline:

1. **Introduction** – Introduce yourself and the name of the department where you work. Discuss how the code official protects people by making sure their homes and buildings are safe. Talk about how the building department is similar to the police department and fire department because they all protect people. (5 minutes)
2. **Introducing Building Codes** – Show students the building codes and explain that they give directions and contains rules for everything from putting on a new roof to adding on a new room. The building codes are what architects, engineers, builders, construction workers (people who build houses and buildings) and even homeowners need to follow when they are building something in their house so it will be safe. (5 minutes)
3. **Explaining the Importance of Water** – Explain how water is the world's most precious commodity, the importance of clean drinking water and how code officials are vigilant protectors of our water supply. Explain the importance of water conservation and efficiency due to water scarcity, droughts and water contamination in many areas of the world. Discuss how building to the most-up-to-date, modern building plumbing and green codes help to ensure safe and smart water use. (5 minutes)
4. **Explaining Backyard and Pool Safety Tips** – Discuss the various steps students and their families can take to remain safe in their backyard and around the pool. Show photos of safe vs. unsafe environments and have the students identify the problems. (5 minutes)

Backyard & Pool Safety Tips

- i. Make sure there is adult supervision when outside in the backyard.
- ii. Make sure there is a gate or fence surrounding the pool.
- iii. When the pool is not in use, it should be covered.
- iv. The grill is a "No Play Zone."
- v. Be careful of any warning signs of an unsafe deck.

5. **Activity and Q&A Session** – Pass out the Safety Scramble activity for the students to complete. After completing the activity, reserve time for students to ask questions. (25 minutes)
6. **Extension Activities** – If time allows, you might do one of the following activities, or they can be left with the teacher to do in the classroom or given as homework.
 - **Building Safety Treasure Hunt** – Break students into teams. Have each team go on a walking field trip of the school and find as many safety features in the building as they can, such as the exit signs, sprinklers, railings, etc. The students or the teacher can make a list of the items – or draw each of the items they find. Alternate – Use a picture checklist to check off items. (Grades K–3)
 - **Posters** – Students design their own Building Safety Month posters. (Grades K–3)
 - **Essay** – Students write an essay describing the importance of water safety. (Grades 2–3)
 - **Class Book** – Students write/illustrate a class book about the importance of water safety. (Grades K–3)

Optional:

- Distribute CODiE Activity Books.
- Distribute Building Safety Month Coloring Books.
- Distribute building safety inspector stickers and pencils.
- Using the information they learned today, invite the students to share and complete these activities with their parents.