LESSON PLAN 1
Unit: CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENT

Suggested Themes: My Neighborhood, My Family: Where Do You Live?
Theme: Where Do You Live?
Age-Appropriate: Preschoolers

Objectives: Helping children become familiar with the physical environment of their homes and neighborhoods

Materials: Books about different lifestyles: living in the country, the city, and the suburbs; dramatic play materials to play house or farm; bulletin board with pictures depicting different lifestyles; magazines for children to cut out pictures

Lesson: Talk about different lifestyles and read the book, A Crack in the Wall. Discuss how the boy who lived in the city brought happiness to his environment by changing how he viewed the crack in the wall. Talk about what life is or might be like to live in a city. Ask how living in the country would be different.

Follow-Up: Provide dress-up materials for playing house in the city or the country. Have children cut out pictures of houses, apartments, and so forth, in cities and in the country. Have them circle those places that represent their own lifestyles. Put a note on the bulletin board about what was discussed today. Read Come Home with Us later in the day. Talk about how people in different places in the city live. Discuss different ways families do things. Compare differences and similarities.
LESSON PLAN 2
Unit: SAFETY

Suggested Themes: Injury Prevention, Practicing Safe Behaviors, Hazards in My Environment

Theme: Practicing Safe Behaviors

Age-Appropriate: Preschoolers

Objectives: Children should be able to identify and categorize safe and unsafe items in the environment.

Materials: Books; pictures from magazines; paper in the shape of a badge and crayons; police officer badges and hats; stop sign, stop light; box of items to sort for safety

Lesson: Talk about safe behaviors to practice on a daily basis, like crossing the street, staying away from medicines or poisons, using seat belts, staying away from strangers, not playing with matches or guns, and so forth. Talk about people who help keep us safe, like police officers, firefighters, and so on. Have a box of items to show one at a time to children, and have them sort those items that promote safety, such as a stop sign, from those that may cause problems, such as an unlit candle. Sort them into two boxes. Talk about things that may keep young children safe in the early childhood education environment. Take a safety walk around the indoor and outdoor environment. Point out the things that help keep the children safe.

LESSON PLAN 3
Unit: SAFETY

Suggested Themes: Fire Safety/“Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool, and Call”; Poison Safety; Indoor Water Safety; Toy Safety; Electrical Safety

Theme: Fire Safety

Age-Appropriate: Preschoolers and kindergartners

Objectives: Children will demonstrate “Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool, and Call” and participate in a fire drill.

Materials: Fire hats, uniforms, and other props for dramatic play area; books; cut shapes of a smoke alarm to color; bulletin board featuring STOP! DROP! ROLL! COOL! and CALL!

Lesson: Visit a firestation or firehouse. A firefighter will show a uniform, including full gear. Talk about how important it is to listen to firefighters if they are trying to rescue us. Have a firefighter show the fire engine and other equipment and how it works. If the children are not allowed in the fire station, have the firefighter come to you (this varies from area to area).

Have a firefighter demonstrate “Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool, and Call.” If possible, have children practice now. Otherwise, practice when children have returned to care.

Follow-Up: A great number of books are available in the library. Read Fire Diary. Observe dramatic play area for firefighter/fire station play. Talk about safe behaviors that help support firefighters. Talk about smoke alarms and how they work. Listen to one. Put out smoke alarm cutouts for coloring.

Talk about how to get out of fires. Talk about fire drills. Hand out information sheets for parents. Include a request to have them diagram their home and create a fire drill for evacuation, then practice it. Several days later, have a fire drill.
LESSON PLAN 4
Unit: SAFETY

Theme: Using Traffic Signs and Signals to be Safe

Age-Appropriate: This may be presented to mixed age or preschoolers only. Toddlers may not grasp idea by themselves, but may model behaviors of older children.

Objectives: Children will be able to identify traffic signs and signals that help them to be safe.

Materials: A standing pretend stoplight; a flannelboard and flannel cut-outs; a hand-held stop sign; a whistle; a bulletin board about traffic safety; block area set up for street, street signs, and cars

Lesson: Tell a flannelboard story about Bobby and the traffic signs to children during group time. Ask children when they see these signs in their environment.

Practice what red lights, green lights, and yellow lights mean, using the standing stoplight. Repeat several times. Show the stop sign and ask children what it means. Demonstrate the whistle, and talk about traffic guards and how they help children. Ask the children what signs are around when they cross the street. Talk about crossing safety.

- Always cross the street in a crosswalk.
- Stay on the curb and look both ways.
- When there is no traffic or the traffic is stopped, it is safe to cross.
- Look both ways again and then cross.

Discuss how this would be different in the case of a stoplight. Practice traffic light crossing safety by playing “Red Light, Green Light” for several minutes to reinforce the idea.

Follow-Up: Have traffic lines drawn outside on playground surface. Take out the traffic signal and traffic sign. Children can get on trikes and wagons and practice traffic safety. Whistles are available for guiding traffic. Give parents a handout requesting they practice the traffic safety procedures that are included.
**LESSON PLAN 5**

**Unit:** SAFETY

*Suggested Themes:* Poisonous Plants, Car Travel Safety, Bicycle or Riding Toy Safety, Water Safety, Playground Safety, Neighborhood Safety. Choose only those that are appropriate to care site.

**Theme:** Car Travel Safety/Buckle Up

**Age-Appropriate:** Preschoolers and kindergartners

**Objectives:** Children display safety measures to use when in a car, truck, or bus.

**Materials:** Chairs set up in dramatic play area to simulate a four- or six-passenger car with a steering wheel for the driver; books; bulletin board on travel safety; toy cars to paint on paper; toy cars, buses, and trucks; outside, a gas station set up for trikes and wagons; magazines for pictures of vehicles

**Lesson:** During group time, read *When I Ride in a Car.* Talk about safety in the car: always buckle up, no hands out the windows, speak with indoor voices, and so forth. Talk about how safety might be different in a bus or in a truck. Compare behaviors.

**Follow-Up:** Go on a field trip in a car or bus. Practice what children learned. Observe children in dramatic play area playing car or bus. Put books about vehicles in library. Encourage children to play gas station in outdoor area and have them practice safe behaviors while on their “vehicles.”

Have children use toy cars for painting. Have children cut pictures of vehicles out of magazines. Discuss safety while they are doing the task. Give parents an information sheet on travel safety. Include a few tips on how to survive travel with children.
LESSON PLAN 6
Unit: SAFETY

Suggested Themes: First Aid, Disaster Preparedness, Fire Drills, Earthquake, Tornado, Hurricane

Theme: Fire Drills

Age-Appropriate: Toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children are all capable of understanding this information at some level. Toddlers may model the behavior without understanding it, but that modeling could save their lives.

Objectives: Children will display safety measures for fire drills and be able to explain how to keep safe from fires.

Materials: A fire drill bell or buzzer; clearly marked exits; sign or poster that shows stop, drop, roll, cool, and call concept; a bulletin board with fire safety, fire drill information; a safe place outdoors to meet during the fire drill

Lesson: Invite a firefighter to talk about fires and how they destroy things and hurt people. Talk about how things can be replaced, but people cannot. Discuss the importance of getting out of a fire. Have students practice a fire drill. Have fireman demonstrate “Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool, and Call.” Children will practice “Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool, and Call.” At one point during the day, have a random fire drill so children can practice while the ideas are fresh in their minds.

Follow-Up: Read the book When There Is a Fire, Go Outside. Give parents information about home fire drills and ask them to practice at home. Once a month conduct a random fire drill in the early childhood education environment.
LESSON PLAN 7
Unit: SAFETY

Suggested Themes: Keeping safe on the playground, playground safety
Theme: Playground safety
Age-Appropriate: Kindergarten, first-, and second-graders
Objectives: Helping children become familiar with the physical environment of their playground and having safe behaviors
Materials: Books about different parts of the playground and how to be safe on the different types of equipment.

Lesson: Talk about different playground equipment and the safe behaviors for that equipment. Read Please Play Safe! Penguin’s Guide to Playground Safety, Playground Safety (Be Safe!), and Staying Safe at School on three different days.

Follow-Up: Take the children out to different parts of the playground and have two or three children demonstrate unsafe behaviors, then the correct safe behaviors. Have children draw pictures of how to be safe on the equipment and how not to be safe. Have them circle those behaviors that are not safe. Have children work in small groups and write out some safety rules. Get all children back together and write out a set of playground safety rules to follow. Post the safety rules in the classroom.
Fire and Fire Safety

What do they do?

Lightening

Nature

Accident

Man made

How do fires start?

Fire and Fire Safety

Where are fires safe to use?

Fire truck

Hat or helmet

Ladder

Fireman's equipment

Other

Shoes

Stove or range

Fireplace

Camp fire ring

Other (list)

At home

BBQ

Furnace

Heater

Fireplace

Dogs?

Fire house

Our friends?

Fireman or woman

What do they do?
Natural Disasters

- Tornadoes
  - How?
  - Where?
  - When?
  - Types of destruction

- Earthquakes
  - How?
  - Where?
  - When?
  - Earth shakes

- Wild fire
  - Name
  - Ocean water
  - Rain
  - Types of destruction
  - How?
  - Where?
  - When?

- Lightening
  - Intensity
  - Where?
  - When?

- Forests
  - Types of destruction
  - Where?
  - When?

- Hurricanes
  - Name
  - Ocean water
  - Rain
  - Types of destruction
  - How?
  - Where?
  - When?

- Hurricanes
  - Name
  - Ocean water
  - Rain
  - Types of destruction
  - How?
  - Where?
  - When?

- Tornadoes
  - How?
  - Where?
  - When?
  - Types of destruction

- snow
  - Intensity
  - Where?
  - When?

- Wind
  - Intensity
  - Where?
  - When?

- Dogs?
  - What do they do?

- Fire house
  - Our friends?
Children’s Books on Safety and Environment


Ross, M., & Long, S. (2004). *Snug as a bug.* San Francisco: Chronicle Books. (This book follows different bugs and how they are made snug ... like different families.)

(At bedtime the baby promises his mother that he would do anything for her because he loves her so much.)
Willems, M. (2004). Knuffle bunny. New York, NY: Hyperion. (Follows a very young girl around her neighborhood looking for her stuffed bunny; when she finds him she says her first word.)