



KEEPING IT SAFE IN THE WORKPLACE: YOU HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY

Teacher Notes

A. COME PREPARED TO STAY SAFE

Each slide includes a fourth option, just for fun. Spend a few minutes discussing the obvious three best options, as ways youth can prepare themselves to stay safe in the workplace.

B. EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS

Encourage students to create dialogues which include statements or questions they might need to use when exercising one of the three basic workplace safety rights (right to know, right to participate, right to refuse unsafe work). Such statements could include requests for information or training, suggestions for improved safety, or a refusal to do a task which could lead to an injury or illness. If necessary, remind students that when initiating workplace conversations, respect and courtesy are always in order.

C. ASK FOR WHAT YOU NEED

Teachers may prefer to do this activity as a large group, teacher-led discussion. Possible answers to the three questions are listed below:

1) What might stop Chuck from speaking up or asking questions in the workplace?

Not wanting to rock the boat, look stupid, get in trouble, appear incompetent . . .

Feeling intimidated, shy, nervous, scared. . .

Not sure who to talk to

Wanting to impress the boss

2) What might make it easier for workers to speak up at work?

Employers or supervisors who are friendly and approachable

When workers know they have workplace safety rights

Sending an email or a text message

3) What advice would you give to a younger brother or sister about speaking up at work?

If you ever feel unsure about your safety at work, speak up!

Don't be afraid to speak up for your safety and the safety of others.

D. LOOK FOR HAZARDS EVERYWHERE

Possible hazards include the following:

Hazard	What could happen?	How could it be corrected?
Produce piled high on bench	Stacked piles could topple and create trip and fall hazards	Store produce properly, in bins or cupboards
Knife overhanging edge of prep table	Worker could cut himself or knock knife off table	Remove knife from edge of prep table
Worker not using protective mitts when moving boiling pot	Worker could get burned	Worker should use PPE, appropriate to the task
Oven door is open	Worker could get burned, or trip on open oven door	Worker should close oven door
Prep table is cluttered	Worker may not see hidden hazards	Worker should keep work area tidy and clutter-free
Newspaper is open on prep table	Worker may lose focus on task	Worker should put paper away until on a work break
Water has been spilled on the floor	Worker may slip and fall	Clean up water as soon as it is spilled
Worker has to stretch awkwardly to reach pot	Worker may injure muscles	Arrange space so needed work areas are readily accessible

E. TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR OWN SAFETY

Encourage students to use one of the suggestions they learned in today's lesson, or any other good suggestion to stay safe in the workplace. Remind students to be specific.

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