

# Science Safety

Classroom safety is always an important consideration for teachers and students. Throughout the **Broward County Hands-On Science** program, every effort has been made to choose safe materials and to suggest safe activity procedures. Special **Safety Note** boxes in the teacher's guide highlight specific safety information.

The Science Safety Rules on the following page provide general safety information for students. Read the rules aloud to the class and discuss them. Review specific safety rules as appropriate prior to each activity.

To provide a safe environment for students engaged in science activities, consider these additional suggestions:

- At the beginning of the year, and periodically afterward, discuss safety rules, demonstrate emergency procedures, and show students how to use the safety equipment in the classroom.
- Familiarize yourself with the materials, equipment, and any potential safety concerns of each activity in advance. Discuss specific safety precautions with students before beginning the activity.
- For your students' protection, always check the school files for any student allergies, such as foods, latex, strong scents, and so on.
- Set a good example yourself by following the safety guidelines when doing demonstrations.
- Take care when arranging the classroom for science activities and storage of science supplies. Allowing students enough space and time to complete an activity is vital to student safety.
- Understand your school's policies and procedures for handling emergencies and evacuations, and know the location and use of safety equipment such as fire extinguishers.

You may wish to consult additional classroom safety resources such as *Safety in the Elementary Science Classroom* and *Exploring Safely: A Guide for Elementary Teachers*, both published by the National Science Teachers Association.

*Science Safety Rules Copymaster on following page* .....➔

# Science Safety Rules

1. Listen to your teacher. Follow the directions. Ask questions if you don't understand.
2. If you spill something or have an accident, tell your teacher.
3. Wear goggles when necessary.
4. Be careful with sharp objects.
5. Never play with the materials provided for the activity.
6. Do not taste anything unless your teacher tells you to.
7. Do not sniff anything unless your teacher tells you to.
8. Do not touch your face, mouth, ears, nose, or eyes during an activity.
9. Always wash your hands after an activity.
10. Clean up your work area.