Class activity: Workplace skills

Safe at work

Years 9 to 12 | About 45 minutes | https://schools.careercalling.com.au/activities/safe-at-work/

Students learn to spot hazards and speak up, so they start work experience or a first job knowing their rights and responsibilities.

Learning intentions

- Recognise common hazards in different workplaces
- Know that workers and employers both have safety responsibilities
- Practise speaking up about a safety concern

You will need

- Workplace scene descriptions (on the worksheet)
- Your state's work health and safety regulator website for reference
- The worksheet

Lesson steps

Time	Step	What to do
5 min	**Why it matters**	Explain that young and new workers may not know what is normal at a new workplace, so asking questions is part of being safe.
15 min	**Spot the hazard**	In groups, students read the workplace scenes on the worksheet (a cafe kitchen, a building site, a shop storeroom, an office) and list the hazards they notice.
10 min	**Who does what**	Discuss: what should the employer do, and what should the worker do? Point students to their state's work health and safety regulator for official information.
10 min	**Speak up role play**	In pairs, one student plays a new worker who notices something unsafe; the other plays the supervisor. Swap roles.
5 min	**Exit ticket**	Students write one thing they will do on their first day of work experience to stay safe.

Adapting it

Use pictures of real workplaces your students know. Keep role plays short and scripted for students who are anxious about speaking.

Going further

Students check the induction checklist for their work experience placement and write two questions to ask on day one.

Student worksheet

Safe at work

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Hazards in the cafe kitchen

Hazards on the building site

Hazards in the shop storeroom

Hazards in the office

What the employer should do

What I should do

What I would say if something felt unsafe

Student worksheet

Workplace scenes

- Cafe kitchen: the floor near the dishwasher is wet, a knife has been left on the edge of the bench, and a new worker is asked to empty the hot oil from the fryer on their first shift.
- Building site: a ladder is leaning on a wall with nobody holding it, there is no sign at the gate, and a worker is not wearing a hard hat or safety boots.
- Shop storeroom: heavy boxes are stacked above head height, the fire exit is blocked by a trolley, and a worker is lifting a carton by bending at the waist.
- Office: a power cord runs across the walkway, a worker has been at the screen for hours without a break, and the chair cannot be adjusted.