

Play It Safe With Your Eyes Classroom Curriculum
Made Possible by Prevent Blindness Ohio and the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Health Services, Save Our Sight Program

Vision is the primary sense used for learning in the early years. As much as 80% of all sensory input to the brain comes through the eye. Young children who do not have the benefits of having good vision also do not have the appropriate social and academic readiness skills that are of utmost importance for success in school. Children who cannot see clearly face great obstacles as they are developing reading readiness skills and are beginning to develop their socialization and play skills.

Every year, 4,000 Ohio children under the age of 14 suffer serious eye injuries. Some of these eye injuries cause permanent damage, and already, there are 1 million Americans who are visually impaired as a result of accidental eye injury. Children, unaware of the many dangers around them, are especially vulnerable to this occurrence. Yet, 90% of these eye injuries are preventable!

Unfortunately, most children who attend preschool, kindergarten, first or second grade are only exposed to information about their eyes as vision relates to the five senses of the body. Little or no information is presented to the children regarding the importance of eye safety and eye care, what to do in case of an eye injury, and how to prevent eye injuries. Parents of young children are also often unaware of how fragile their child's eyes are, how important regular eye examinations are to maintain their child's good vision, and how easily their eyes may be permanently damaged as a result of an accident.

Objective:

The goal of the Play It Safe With Your Eyes curriculum is to provide vision education to classrooms serving young children in preschool through grade six, their parents and teachers, so that they can make wise, informed decisions regarding eye safety, eye health, eye protection and first aid for eye emergencies.

Program Descriptions:

Play It Safe With Your Eyes:

Play It Safe With Your Eyes is a five unit multi-media eye health and safety curriculum that is especially designed for children ages preschool through grade six that combines exploratory hands-on learning activities with an upbeat video and reinforcement of simple health and safety rules as it teaches children to "play it safe" with their eyes. The goal of Play It Safe With Your Eyes is to provide information and skills to young children, their parents and teachers that will enable them to make wise, informed decisions regarding eye health and safety, eye protection and first aid for eye emergencies.

The Play It Safe With Your Eyes curriculum is separated into five lesson plans, each containing lists of additional resources, reading lists and activities that are grade-level appropriate for Pre K through Grade 2, Grade 3 through Grade 4 and Grade 5 through Grade 6. The curriculum is also aligned with the National Science Education Standards and the National Health Education

Standards. Each lesson references the particular standard(s) that are included in the lesson materials.

For additional information on the Play It Safe With Your Eyes curriculum, contact Prevent Blindness Ohio at 1-800-301-2020.