

AgriKids Farm Safety Ambassador

DISCUSSION SHEET



Theme 1: Farm yard, Field & Electricity Safety

Level: Infants

Objective

In this discussion we will be introducing the children to the theme of farm safety. Helping them to recognise key hazards around a typical farm yard, including the fields and an introduction to electricity safety.

Learning outcome topics

1. Preparing for your farm visit.
2. Do you know the signs?
3. Keeping the yard tidy
4. Where the dangers might be – Farm yard zones
5. What is electricity made of and how is it used on a farm?

Tip: You can use the Farm Safety Workbook in conjunction with this discussion.

Topics

1. Preparing for a farm visit – What to know before you go!

Before visiting a farm, ask the children the following questions and create the 'Farm Visit Checklist'.

a. Who are you going with?

- a. Mention the importance of visiting with a grown up
- b. Reinforce the message 'We never visit a farm alone'
- c. What grown up do we visit with? (parents, grandparent, aunt or uncle)

b. What kind of farm are you visiting?

- a. Speak about the different kinds of farms there are.
- b. What will you see on these farms?
- c. What kind of dangers might there be on the farm you are visiting?
 - i. Animals
 - ii. Machinery
 - iii. Chemicals

c. Are there big jobs planned on the farm that day?

- a. If so explain why we don't visit farms on these busy days.

d. What will you wear?

- a. Your boots (not roller skates, or high heels, or heeledies!!)
- b. A coat if it is cold or rainy
- c. A hi vis vest

e. What kind of warning signs you will see?

Are the children aware of the various signs they may see while on the farm? Do they know what the colours and the symbols mean? At this point we lead into the next stage of the discussion.

2. Know the safety signs

Show the children the following chart and using their hands help them illustrate what the signs are telling us!
Eg. When a sign is blue, it is mandatory. **When it's blue - You have to do**



Circle with a
diagonal bar
Red

- White
contrast



Red: Means No

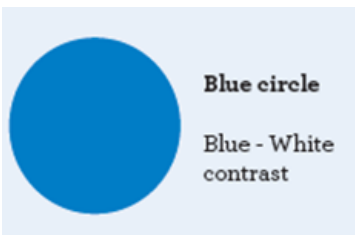


Square /
Rectangle
Green

- White
contrast



Green: Means Go



Blue circle

Blue - White
contrast



**When it's blue,
you have to!**



Triangle

Yellow - Black
contras



**Yellow: Caution,
warning, Be
Careful!**

3. Keeping the yard tidy

It is important to keep the farm tidy so nobody trips and hurts themselves. What are some easy ways the farmer can keep their yard tidy?

- All tools are put away after use
- All chemicals are stored away
- Bales are stacked safely (no wobbly ones)
- Ladders are not left lying against the wall
- Signs are put up to warn people

Can the children think of anymore ways to keep the yard tidy. Can these ideas also be used in the classroom, school and at home?



4. The Farm yard zones

On the board list the 'Farm Yard 'Zones'.

- Sheds (eg. hay shed, machinery shed, etc)
- The Animal Pen;
- The Fields

Ask the children to help you with this list.

Now ask the children to mention some of the dangers they might find in each zone. The prompts below will help you with the discussion.

If some children seem more knowledgeable than others, ask them to take more of a lead in the conversation. You can pick and choose the level of detail depending on your class's ability.

Finish off by familiarising the children with the safety signs they should see in each area.

The Farm Yard Zones	Staying safe	What are the signs?
The Sheds: Sheds and outbuildings are very important on a farm. They house and protect the animals, machinery and equipment that farmers use on their farm. The questions: What are sheds used for? What are the different types of shed? What kind of things do we use sheds for? • Grain storage • Hay and straw bales • Animal sheds • Machinery storage • Machinery repairs • Animal feedstuffs • Chemicals (we will learn more about this in Theme 4)	The Dangers: • Falling from bales • Falling through a roof • Items falling from overhead • Fire Falling: Bales, pallets and tyres are often very wobbly and can easily fall. A falling bale or tractor tyre can weigh as much as several grown adults. Staying Safe: So stay away from ladders and bales, pallets, tyres or anything else that you might find piled up on the farm. Never try to play on old swings – the ropes may be rotted and dangerous. Farmers should make sure that ladders are tidied away and not causing any unnecessary temptation. Farmers should remove old rope and tyre swings from their farm sheds  	The signs:      
The Farm Yard Zones	Safety	What signs?
The Animal Shed & Pens Many farmers will keep animals on their farms. In spring time many sheep and cattle are indoors as they prepare to give birth.	The Dangers: <u>Animals & Young:</u> Birth time is a very stressful time for the animals and farmers have to be extremely careful around those animals who are likely to attack while protecting their young.	The signs: 

The questions:

What kind of animals do farmers keep on farms?

What do we call the areas we house these animals? Where would the farmer keep these animals? (Fields, pens, stables, etc)

- Cattle – slatted shed, pen
- Horses – a stable
- Sheep – shed, pen
- Pigs – a sty
- Chickens – a coop / hen house
- Bulls – slatted shed, pen

Did you know: Freshly calved cows can cause more accidents on farms than a bull!

Medicines:

Some animals may require some medicines, never touch any bottle that you may see in a shed. Always tell an adult if you see any that may be there by accident.

Bulls:

Bulls are very territorial creatures, this means they protect their pen or their field and don't like anyone getting too close.

Staying Safe:

Keep back from animals and their young especially in the early days since birth.

Never enter a pen or field with a bull!

Wash your hands every time you are touch an animal. Zoonosis is the spreading of disease from an animal to a person, handwashing can prevent the spread.



Please
disinfect
your boots



Now wash
your hands

**The Farm Yard Zones****Fields****What are the fields used for?**

On a farm the farmer has many uses for their land!

- Feeding animals
- Growing crops for humans
- Growing animal feeds
- Growing animal bedding
- Orchards for fruit growing

They also add to the scenery and sometimes you can be lucky to be able to enjoy a picnic or a walk – but always make sure you have permission!

Never leave a gate open after going into a field. The rule of gates is that if it was open when you got to it, leave it open. If it was closed when you got to it, close it behind you.

It is never safe to climb over fences, or to go into fenced off areas. They are fenced off for a reason!

Safety**The Dangers:**Animals:

Never enter fields where there are animals and their young.

Bulls are extremely dangerous and should be avoided at all times.

Water:

Ditches, drains, water troughs, ponds, rivers or streams may be present in the field. Do not approach in case you slip and fall.

Stay Safe:

- Look out for signs that warn you of any dangers.
- Stay out of fields that have a bull or cows with young calves grazing.
- Never enter a field that is not your property, this is trespassing.
- Be careful of the fencing such barbed wire and electric wire on their fences – you could get cut or get a nasty shock!
- If you open a gate, always close it after you!

What signs?**The signs:**

5. Introduction to electricity

What is electricity?

Start by asking the children what they might already know about electricity and then create list of what electrical in the class room and how they know it is electrical.

Answer:

Electricity is a kind of energy that can give things the ability to move and work.

Eg. A TV, a hair dryer, lights, vacuum cleaners. All things with a plug use electricity to work.

Where and how would a farmer use electricity on their farm?

- Lights in sheds
- Electric fences
- Clippers to clip sheep's wool
- Heated lambs to keep new born animals warm.

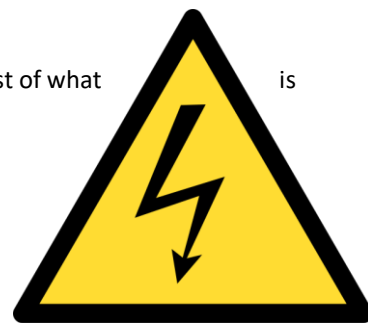
Electric Fences

Can you recognise electric fences by their wires, and the subtle clicking sound?
Never touch an electric fence, you could get a shock.

Staying safe with electricity on a farm

Electrical cables on telegraph poles can be dangerous. Avoid playing with kites near overhead cables, and avoid using fishing rods near overhead cables.

If there is a broken cable on the ground, never approach it and call the electricity company immediately.



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Follow up activities & projects

- Complete the activities in the farm safety workbook
- Build your own model farm and show how to stay safe in the different zones – eg. put up signs.
- Try the Lesson Plan for this Theme.
- Check out our white board and PC games: Farm Yard Safety, Off to Work and Follow the Signs at agrikids.ie
- Download and fill in our 'Spot the Dangers' worksheets.
- Colour and cut out the Farm Safety Signs and hang them around your class room
- Test the theory of wobbly bales with a game of Jenga.
- Sign up for an AgriKids webinar
- Invite a farmer to your class and ask them how they stay safe on their farm
- Ask a member of ESB Networks to your class to talk about electricity safety
- Ask a fire safety officer to talk to the children about fire safety