

# Elementary Science Safety Acknowledgment Form

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**Note to teachers of science and supervisors/administrators:** Safety is the most important part of a science lesson. This includes monitoring student behavior and taking care of lab materials and equipment. The attached safety acknowledgment form is for your use in the elementary classroom and/or laboratory. It should be given to students at the beginning of the school year—after safety training is completed—to help them understand their role in ensuring a safer and more productive science experience.

When selecting activities to do with elementary school students, only plan those that use materials for which you have appropriate engineering controls (e.g., ventilation, eyewash station, etc.) and personal protective equipment (e.g., safety goggles, aprons, etc.). Be sure to have storage and disposal procedures in place as per the Safety Data Sheet (SDS), including household substances, such as vinegar, alcohol, and baking soda. Teachers should conduct a hazard analysis and risk assessment, and review appropriate safety actions to determine if the activity is feasible or should be altered or eliminated. For more information, visit the NSTA website at [www.nsta.org/safety](http://www.nsta.org/safety) to view and download safety resources. Also seek out your state’s safety resources and OSHA regulations.

## Resources

[Science Safety Rules](#)

[Science Safety: It’s Elementary!](#)

*NSTA would like to thank its Science Safety Advisory Board for developing this resource. Questions or comments about its content should be directed to NSTA at 703-243-7100 or [safety@nsta.org](mailto:safety@nsta.org).*

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# Elementary Science Safety Acknowledgment Form

**Note to parents/guardians:** Please review the following safety acknowledgment with your child and sign in the spaces indicated. If you or your child have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or school administrators.

## What I need to do to behave responsibly:

- Always follow safety operating procedures.
- Always wait for the teacher's directions before touching any lab materials.
- Listen to and follow all instructions given by the teacher.
- Tell the teacher if you see anything that might not be safe, including unsafe behavior.
- Behave in a responsible manner in the science classroom and in outdoor settings.
- Report any accidents, spills, or broken equipment to the teacher immediately.
- Read and follow all warning labels on substances being used.
- Be sure your teacher is aware of any allergies you may have.

## What I need to do for my safety:

- Wear personal safety equipment (goggles, gloves, aprons) as indicated by your teacher. When my teacher's safety equipment is on, mine will be on. When my teacher's safety equipment is taken off, I can then take mine off!
- Tie back long hair.
- Avoid wearing loose sleeves or other clothing that may drag in chemicals or catch on equipment.
- Do not wear loose hanging jewelry, especially when working with chemicals or heat sources.
- Before touching a hot plate or other heat source, make sure that it is both unplugged and cool.
- Never taste, eat, or drink anything in science class.
- Avoid touching your eyes, ears, face, or mouth when working with chemicals, plants, or animals.
- Never mishandle or mistreat animals.
- Make sure any chemical used has a label on the container.
- Keep lids on bottles and other containers when not in use.
- Dispose of all chemical waste and materials only as directed by my teacher.
- Never smell or inhale anything unless the teacher tells you to do so.

## What I also need to do:

- Use science equipment the way you have been taught.
- Do not pull out electric plugs by tugging on the cord.
- Keep your workplace neat and clean up when the activity is completed.

- Keep books, book bags, etc., off the floor and away from the area where the science activity is being performed.
- Know the location of all safety equipment, such as the fire blanket, fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, etc., in or near your classroom/laboratory.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after science lab activities.

**Agreement:**

I have read and understand this form. I was present when these safety guidelines were discussed in class or I discussed them directly with my teacher. I am aware that the laboratory may have hazards that could make it unsafe. I acknowledge that it is important that I follow the above safety procedures to help make it a safer learning environment.

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(Student Signature)

(Date)

I have read and reviewed the lab safety rules with my child.

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(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)