

DON'T PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH

Educator's Note: *This commercial is designed for preschool age children. It will be used as a tool to empower older children to help their younger siblings develop healthy habits. Prior to this lesson, you need to ask the students to bring in the following materials: an old sock, needle and thread, buttons, pieces of ribbon, scrap material, yarn, etc.*

Please Note: Be sure to obtain parental and teacher approval and permission. It may not be safe for all students to use a needle and thread.

CORE LESSON

1 PREVIEWING ACTIVITY

- Ask the students if any of them have very young children in their home.
- Ask them to describe some of the things they do. (Accept several responses inserting 'they put everything in their mouth' if it doesn't come up.)
- Ask them why adults are concerned about this practice of putting things in their mouth.

2 LINK TO THE COMMERCIAL

- Explain that they are going to watch a commercial that is designed for very young children.
- Tell them they will be using this commercial to teach a lesson to the younger grades.

FOCUS FOR VIEWING: DON'T PUT IT YOUR MOUTH

As you watch the commercial, think of the dangers some young children might encounter because they want to put things in their mouths.

RATIONALE

There is a temptation for very young children to put things in their mouth. They need to realize that this could be dangerous, particularly when it comes to harmful substances.

PURPOSE

This lesson will provide opportunities for peer teachers to empower children to develop healthy, safe habits.

VIEW THE COMMERCIAL

DON'T PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH (60 SECONDS)

3 POSTVIEWING ACTIVITY

- Discuss the commercial by asking:
 - What age group do you think this commercial was designed for? (preschool)
 - What did the producers of the video do to convince you of this? (music, puppets, humour, repetition, etc.)
- Explain that they are going to have an opportunity to show this commercial to two groups: K-1 students and 2-3 students.
- Tell them that as Peer Teachers, their job this time will be to explain the dangers of putting strange objects in young children's mouths. Since the commercial is designed for preschoolers, they are to try to 'empower' these young children to go home and encourage safe and healthy habits with their younger brothers and sisters. (YOU WILL NEED TO EXPLAIN WHAT 'EMPOWERING' MEANS.)
- Tell them they are going to have an opportunity to make a puppet using an old sock, buttons, ribbon, felt etc., and that these puppets will be used, along with the commercial to help to pass along a very important message.
- Provide them with the necessary materials and allow them time to 'create' their puppet character.
- Introduce the puppets to the class.

Educator's Note: *If there is not sufficient time to make the puppets, students could bring in puppets or stuffed animals from home.*

CLOSURE

What was the important message in the commercial?

What role do you think you could play in preventing young children from hurting themselves by putting things in their mouths?

Why do you think it will be easier to do this with puppets?

K-1 LESSON | SING A SONG OF SAFETY

▶ PREPARATION

- Be sure to tell the teacher you will need a TV and VCR.

▶ YOU WILL NEED

- Your puppets
- The commercial “Don’t Put It In Your Mouth”
- To learn the song “Don’t Put It In Your Mouth”

▶ BEGINNING THE LESSON - PREVIEWING ACTIVITY

- Introduce yourselves and explain that you have brought some very important guests to help you pass along a message.
- Ask them how many of them have younger brothers and sisters at home.
- Ask them if any of them put things in their mouths.
- Ask them why this could be dangerous.
- Explain that you are going to show them a commercial about the dangers of putting things in their mouths.
- Explain that the commercial is designed for their younger brothers and sisters, so they are to watch for how the message is presented.

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▶ POSTVIEWING ACTIVITY

- Ask them what they think the commercial was about.
- Introduce them to your puppets. Pass them around to let the students get to know them.
- Explain that your puppets have been sent on a very important mission – to remind young people to never put strange objects in their mouths!
- Re-play the commercial, asking them to listen to the words of the song.
- Tell them that your puppets aren't very good singers, so you need them to help the puppets learn the song.
- Ask for volunteers to come up and hold the puppets.
- Sing the song several times, letting different children manipulate the puppets each time.

CLOSURE

Explain to the students that they can help their younger brothers and sisters to remember this important health message by going home and singing the song to their families!

Have the puppets thank the children and tell them to sing the song one last time before they leave.

2-3 LESSON | RULE REMINDERS

▶ PREPARATION

- Be sure to tell the teacher you will need a TV and a VCR.
- Explain that it would also be helpful to have crayons, markers or coloured pencils.

▶ YOU WILL NEED

- The commercial “Don’t Put It In Your Mouth”
- Your puppets
- Several sheets of recycled paper
- ‘Good’ paper for the Rule Reminders

▶ BEGINNING THE LESSON - PREVIEWING ACTIVITY

- Introduce yourselves and explain that you are here to pass along a very important message.
- Tell them you have brought some friends along to help you. Introduce your puppets.
- Have the puppets ask them if they have younger brothers and sisters at home.
- Explain that sometimes very young children put things in their mouths. Ask them if they have ever seen their younger brothers and sisters do that.
- Tell them that today they are going to watch a commercial about putting things in your mouth.
- Ask them to watch and see what the important message would be for their younger siblings.

VIEW THE COMMERCIAL

DON'T PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH (60 SECONDS)

▶ POSTVIEWING ACTIVITY

- Ask them what the message was.
- Ask them what age group they think the commercial was targeted for and why.
- Explain that today they are going to help the puppets make safety rules for their homes.
- Divide the students into groups of four or five and give them a piece of recycled paper for their rough ideas.
- On the board, write a couple of examples of rules that could help keep strange objects out of the mouths of young children. (Always put sharp objects out of reach, keep all poisonous mixtures locked up, etc.)
- Provide them with enough time to share several ideas.
- Share the ideas with the larger group.
- Give each child a piece of paper and have them carefully print the safety rule on the paper. Ask them to clearly illustrate their rule and colour it brightly.

CLOSURE

Share the completed Rule Reminders with the class.

Ask them what they learned from this lesson.

Ask them where they will post their Rule Reminder in order to help prevent a young child from putting something dangerous in their mouths. (If they don't have younger brothers or sisters, where else might they put the Rule Reminder?)

Ask them to take the Rule Reminder home and to have them explain the purpose to their families.

Congratulate them for acting as responsible siblings!