
Be safe! Health and safety in school science and technology for teachers of 3- to 12-year-olds

4th edn.

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The blurb on the book cover describes Be safe! as indispensable and in this instance the publishers are quite right

This is the fourth edition of this excellent book from the ASE and it includes new sections on the under-5s and on primary/secondary liaison in addition to other updated material. Particularly useful is the section on how to compile a straightforward risk assessment and the mention of a need to 'debunk' health and safety myths that can inhibit teachers from trying exciting activities with children. As the section on safeguarding children explains, statistically primary children are much safer in school than anywhere else.

This new version of *Be safe!* is set out in chapters which encompass the different aspects of science, such as *Studies out of the classroom*, *Food and hygiene* and *Chemicals*, making it easy to find the information you need. Safety codes are included for each of these chapters, listing vital information as a checklist; these are helpful in making sure that nothing hazardous has been overlooked before teaching. Primary teachers will be glad to have clear information about working safely with microorganisms and chemicals and safe ways to heat materials, all of which can be a source of concern in the non-specialist environment of a primary classroom.

The emphasis throughout the book is on educating children to recognise hazards and know how to deal with these safely, giving them skills and knowledge that will help to keep them safe in the classroom and beyond. The need for teachers to model good practice is emphasised, plus the salutary reminder that if you are doing something new, you need to try it out yourself before you attempt it with children!

The blurb on the book cover describes *Be safe!* as indispensable and in this instance the publishers are quite right; it would be money well spent to have a copy at hand for every primary teacher.

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