

## Coaching about Materials

In this activity, you will choose one of the staff members you watched in the Learn section. Think about how you would support that staff member's professional development around safe materials. First, choose one of the videos to watch again (Infant/Toddler, Preschool, or School-Age). Then choose one staff member featured in that video. Answer the questions and share your responses with a colleague.

1. What safety concerns do you have about what you saw in the video? Be specific and link your answers to the safety considerations described in this lesson.

*Infants and Toddlers:*

- *Unsafe Toys: The expandable ball has small pieces and has a pinching risk. Eli got something in his mouth.*
- *Safe and Engaging Materials and Interactions: Materials close by, age-appropriate, adults respond to needs. Bottle is on the floor.*

*Preschool:*

- *Ice Play: Ice chips fly off into eyes.*
- *Real Tools: Children use real hammer and tools. Teacher reminds the children to wear goggles. Teacher stays close the entire time and works with the children.*

*School-Age:*

- *Tools for the Job: Safety scissors force the children to use more force than they usually would and could be less safe than real scissors.*
- *Sewing Arrangement: The electrical cords are in the middle of a walkway and could be a tripping hazard.*
- *Being Aware: Children are using real scissors, and the adult helps children use the scissors safely.*
- *Using Tools Safely: Rules are posted, adults stay close to potentially dangerous tools.*

2. What suggestions would you make to the staff member?

*Infants and Toddlers:*

- *Unsafe Toys: Replace the ball with other cloth or plastic balls without small parts.*
- *Safe and Engaging Materials and Interactions: Continue interacting with the babies and providing stimulating materials. Makes sure to keep bottles off of the floor.*

*Preschool:*

- *Ice Play: Make sure necessary tools are available before children start an activity. Provide goggles any time children use hammers.*
- *Real Tools: Continue providing activities that challenge children.*

*School-Age:*

- *Tools for the Job: Make sure children have access to appropriate tools and the supervision to use them safely.*

- *Sewing Arrangement: Consider taping down electrical cords in walkways or repositioning tables. Continue offering activities that challenge the children.*
- *Being Aware: Continue providing opportunities to develop functional skills, and continue having discussions about safety.*
- *Using Tools Safely: Continue reinforcing rules, but make sure you also emphasize what children can do (instead of only what not to do).*