

## **SAFETY CONTRACT FOR AT HOME HANDS-ON SCIENCE PROJECTS (K-5)**

Course Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your child may be assigned hands-on science activities to be conducted at home. You will be given written instructions for these assigned activities. While these are exciting opportunities, it is important that you and your child follow all required safety procedures when your child conducts an assigned hands-on activity at home. The safety rules and procedures that must be followed are set forth below. Please review them. You or another adult caregiver whom you designate must be present and monitor your child when they are conducting these hand-on assignments at home.

You must sign this safety contract in order for your child to conduct hands-on science assignments at home. Please review this contract, discuss the safety rules with your child and and sign and date at the bottom of the page. Please make a copy of this contract for yourself and then follow the instructions provided by your child's teacher to return this contract to their school.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

### **ELEMENTARY (K-5) SCIENCE SAFETY RULES**

- 1) Students must always be supervised by a parent or an adult caregiver designated by the parent while working on hands-on assignments at home.
- 2) Students and designated caregivers must follow instructions carefully, and should be careful, responsible, and aware during all steps of the activity. If you have any questions, contact your child's teacher,
- 3) Students and designated caregivers should keep the area where they are working neat and clean and should clean up after every activity.
- 4) Long hair, hanging jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing are hazardous during hands-on activities and experiments. Long hair must be tied back. Hanging jewelry and loose clothing must be secured.
- 5) Any assignments involving using chemicals/substances will only require substances that are mild and non-toxic, such as lemon juice, vinegar, baking soda, or dish soap. Use only the materials required and do not substitute the materials.
- 6) Any assignments involving heating something or using an electrical appliance must be done under close supervision by the parent or designated caregiver. The parent or designated caregiver must be responsible for handling any items that may be hot to the touch, and for plugging in or unplugging any electrical appliances that are used.

7) Students must use safety scissors when engaging in any activity which involves cutting of items.

8) Student projects that involve animals should be observational studies of pets or local wildlife, in which students observe the animal by looking at and listening to it, but do not interfere with the animal in any way.

9) Students should not do projects that involve microbes (mold, yeast, etc.) at home.

8) If a student conducts an investigation outside of their home (for example, observing wildlife in a local park), they must be accompanied by an adult caregiver at all times. Students and caregivers should dress appropriately for the weather, and the caregiver should bring a charged cell phone with them.

9) If a student project collects data from people, students should make sure that:

- Their parent/guardian is comfortable with them collecting data from specific people. Students should only collect data from people whom they and their family already know.
- The person they are collecting data from knows what the student is investigating and has told the student and their caregiver that they are comfortable with participating. For additional guidance on elementary at-home science safety, see NSTA Elementary Science Safety Acknowledgement Form and NSTA Safety for Hands-On Science Home Instruction.

10) If students or family members have questions about the safety of a project, they should talk to their teacher to get advice on how to make sure their project is safe.

By signing this agreement, I give permission for my child to conduct hands-on science activities at home. I have read the required safety rules in this contract, reviewed them with my child and agree to follow all of these safety rules. I understand that I or an adult caregiver whom I designate must be present when my child is conducting these at-home activities. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that I or the designated caregiver supervises my child during the assigned activity and follow the teacher's directions and the safety rules described in this contract.

Student Name (please print or type)\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (please print or type)\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_