

Don't Monkey Around With Safety in a Car Lesson Plan (K-2)

Learning Objectives: Students will

1. Explain the dangers of texting while driving.
2. Identify ways passengers can distract drivers.

TEKS: 19 TAC Ch.113 TEKS for Social Studies, K.7AB, K.8AB, 1.10AB, 1.11AB, 1.12A, 2.8B, 2.10A

Materials Needed:

Don't Monkey Around with Safety in a Car by Dawn Fielder (the book is available in big book size or the standard picture book size from DRSR.)

Vocabulary: prosecution, defense, witness, direct examination, cross examination, rules of evidence, impeaching a witness, objection, leading questions, narrative response, relevance, hearsay, speculation, non-responsive, lack of firsthand knowledge, badgering, counsel testifying, beyond the scope

Estimated Time: 20-30 minutes

Teaching Strategy:

1. Assess prior knowledge: Discuss and make a list of what students know about driving a car plus safety concerns of a driver. Some questions to get the conversation started are:
Who has watched an adult drive a car?
What are some things a person does when they drive a car?
It sounds like driving can keep a person busy. Are there rules that must be followed while driving? What are some examples?
Well, I have a book called *Don't Monkey Around with Safety in a Car* and it might teach us something about being a safe driver and passenger in a car.
2. Focus event: Discuss what it means to "monkey around." Next, have students stand up and "monkey around" for a brief time and be reseated. Once seated ask students to describe what other students were doing. (Most will be focused on what they did and no one else) This focus event should show the students they have limited awareness when attention is focused on what they are doing.
3. Introduce and Read Book:
* Option: This book mainly focuses on texting while driving, but pages 19-21 also brings attention to the dangers of drinking and driving. If you think this portion of the book does not fit your classes' readiness these pages may be omitted without harming comprehension of the story nor the focus on texting while driving.

Focus question: How does “monkeying around” in a car effect safety? Who is the person who should be focused on safety in a car? Why?

As each page is read, ask questions such as:

Why does Marigold want her mother to text her father? p. 5

Why does Mom say she can’t send a text to Dad? p.

Does Marigold accept Mom’s answer? How do you know? p. 6

What reason does Mom give Marigold for not sending a text? p. 9

Mom says that other people text and drive but she chooses not to do that? Why? Can you think of a time in your life when your parent chose not to do what others are doing for your safety? p. 10

When did Mom check her phone for texts? p. 16

Where does Mom keep her phone while driving? Why does she keep it there? p.19

(If you included pp 19-21) What seems to be the reason the police officer had the man walking on a straight line? p. 20

What rule does Mom give about drinking and driving? p. 21

4. Return to the focus question: How does “monkeying around” in a car effect safety? Who is the person who should be focused on safety in a car? Why? (all passengers)
5. Follow up activity: Have students pretend to write their names in the palm of their hand. While they focus on their hands, flash three fingers up. When all students finish ask how many fingers were shown. This activity reinforces that writing their name in their palm is like texting, and while you are writing something (such as a name), it is hard to be aware of what else is happening around you.
6. Closure: Students can write a letter to someone they know who texts while driving with the lesson from their experience in this lesson. The letter should tell what lesson the student learned from the book and ask the person to drive safely without texting. Two sample letter templates have been included.

Other students may draw a poster warning of the dangers of texting and driving. Teachers may display these posters in the classroom or nearby hallway. Student posters should include a picture and a caption.

Dear _____,

Today I learned about texting while driving while reading a book called *Don't Monkey Around with Safety in a Car*.

I learned that _____

I want you to remember to not text while you drive because

I included a picture of me riding in the car with you.

Love,



