

## Trips – Slips – Falls

On sloping surfaces, children can investigate the slip resistance of different combinations of surface and footwear – and try them out for themselves.

## Hygiene and skin protection

A test using a special lotion under ultraviolet light reveals whether hands have been properly washed. An experiment with a fingerprint draws attention to the germs thriving on unwashed fingers.

The power of the sun is demonstrated by its capacity to bleach vegetable stains on clothing outdoors. There are various ways of protecting oneself from the effects of sunlight.

## Household toxins

How do plants respond to acid or cleaning agents? What effect does acid have on eggshells? And what do the danger symbols on packages mean? Children playfully explore these issues as well.

## Noise

Making your own hearing protector, making sound visible and listening with covered ears: here it is all about a number of experiences relating to noise and its effect. With simple measures, children learn to protect themselves from noise.



## Information and assistance

All the necessary information on getting started with exploring safety and health with children has been compiled on the Web pages of the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the public sector in Rhineland-Palatinate and the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the German Social Accident Insurance. In addition to experiment cards, there are also templates for printing and further instructions on their practical use (for the moment available in German only).

### More at

[www.dguv.de/webcode/e1179195](http://www.dguv.de/webcode/e1179195)  
[www.ukrlp.de](http://www.ukrlp.de), Webcode: b1006



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komm **mit** mensch

Sicher. Gesund. Miteinander.



**Children explore  
safety and health**

**Safety and health for pre-schools  
and primary schools**

## Children explore safety and health

The foundations for awareness of safety and health are laid in childhood. This realisation was the inspiration for the project “Children explore safety and health”, initiated by the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the public sector in Rhineland-Palatinate and developed at the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the German Social Accident Insurance (IFA).

With simple experiments, pre- and primary school children learn to identify health hazards and take appropriate action to prevent them. By investigating them themselves, they acquire skills in dealing with hazards. This way they absorb the concept of safety and health – the first steps towards a culture of safety and health.



## Teachers lead by example and supervising

The teaching staff of pre- and primary schools play a key role in communicating safety and health principles, as they lead by example in dealing with potential health hazards.

Teachers choose the topics and create an environment in which children can investigate on their own initiative. It is important to collectively organise the experiments and actively involve the children. The initial question should be geared to the interest and everyday experience of children: Why should I always wear a warning jacket? Why aren't I allowed to do gymnastics in my socks? The material provided is designed to motivate children to seek their own answers. In the subsequent joint review of the findings, teachers help children to broaden their horizons. Children learn to protect their health.

## Using experimentation cards

Experimentation cards form the foundation for the work of teaching staff. They start with children's possible everyday experience and take it from there. A brief overview of the experiments is followed by a list of the required materials – mainly simple everyday items. Detailed descriptions supported by pictures introduce the various experiments and make it easy to carry them out. Children's findings are then collected. The reverse of the cards provides supplementary ideas for finding further opportunities for maintaining safety and health. The cards are rounded off with background information.

## Experimenting in modules

Based on the health hazards in the target group, five modules have been defined:



## Visibility in the street

Why is it important to wear reflectors? What makes warning jackets so special? The reflector strip makes its wearer visible in the dark, e.g. in the headlights of a car. But the signal colour of the fabric that becomes more clearly visible in twilight is also a worthwhile subject of investigation. Children discover, finally, that the eye can only see things that emit or reflect light.