



Grade 5 Sample Lesson Plan: Protecting Vision and Hearing

Objectives/Goals

- Students will learn and describe recommended strategies for vision and hearing protection

Materials

- Internet access for videos and resource pages.
- Handouts on vision and hearing protection.
- Posters, markers, images

Steps

- Have a conversation with students about hearing and vision and elicit their responses about why vision and hearing are important.
- Provide them with a background on vision and hearing. Share videos, such as, Kids Health How Your Ears Work <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMxoHKwWmU8> or Kids Health How Your Eyes Work <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syaQgmx5i0>
- Discuss the ten healthy vision strategies put forth by the National Eye Institute and the three hearing protection strategies recommended by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD).
- Have students create persuasive posters to convince their families, friends, and community to adopt these vision and hearing protection strategies.
- Additional teaching resources are included in the references below.

Assessment Idea

- Can students identify the three ways to protect hearing?
- Can students identify three ways to protect sight?

References

- Kids Health - Can Loud Music Hurt My Ears?
<http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/rock-music.html>
- Kids Health - Glasses and Contact Lenses
<http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/glasses.html>
- Kids Health - Earbuds <http://kidshealth.org/en/teens/earbuds.html?WT.ac=t-ra>
- Kids Health – What’s Hearing Loss
<http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/hearing-impairment.html>
- Kids Health – Your Eyes <http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/eyes.html>
- Listen to Your Buds Program <http://www.asha.org/buds/>
- National Eye Institute (NEI) for Kids All About Vision <https://nei.nih.gov/kids>
- NEI for Kids - Healthy Vision Tips https://nei.nih.gov/kids/healthy_vision_tips
- NEI Ask A Scientist - Eye Myths and Facts
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h83zPt2A-aU>
- Tips for Teaching Kids About Noise Induced Hearing Loss
<https://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov/educators/tips-to-teach-kids>

Handout

The next page includes a handout for the lesson. The handout is designed for print use only.

National Eye Institute Healthy Vision Tips

1. Eat right to protect your sight.

Keep your eyes healthy by eating a well-balanced diet. Load up on different types of fruits and veggies, especially leafy greens like spinach, kale, and collard greens. Fish like salmon, tuna, and halibut have been shown to help your eyes, too.

2. Get moving.

Did you know that kids who exercise often have a healthier body weight than kids who don't? Being overweight or obese can put you at higher risk for diabetes and other conditions that can lead to vision problems.

3. Speak up if your vision changes.

Is your vision blurry? Do you squint a lot? Ever have trouble seeing things at school? Tell a parent or teacher if your eyes are bothering you or if you notice any changes in your vision.

4. Wear your glasses.

Your glasses help you see better, especially when they're clean and free of smudges. Talk to an adult about how to clean your glasses and how to store them when you're not wearing them.

5. Keep the germs away.

Always wash your hands before putting them close to your eyes, especially if you're putting in or taking out contact lenses.

6. Gear up.

Playing your favorite sport? Using chemicals during science class? Mowing the lawn? Wear the right protection to keep your eyes safe. Many eye injuries can be prevented with better safety habits, such as using protective eyewear.

7. Wear your shades.

The sun's rays can hurt your eyes. Choose sunglasses that block 99% or 100% of both UVA and UVB radiation from the sun. And remember, you should never look directly at the sun.

8. Give your eyes a break.

Do you spend a lot of time looking at a computer, phone, or TV screen? Staring at any one thing for too long can tire your eyes. Give your eyes a rest with the 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes, look about 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

9. Say no to smoking.

Did you know that smoking is as bad for your eyes as it is the rest of your body? Smoking can put you at risk for some pretty serious eye issues, which can lead to blindness.

10. Talk about it.

Does anyone in your family have issues with their eyes? Not sure? Ask! Talking about eye health with your family can help all of you stay healthy

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Hearing Protection Tips

1. Lower the volume.

2. Move away from the noise.

3. Wear ear protection (e.g., earmuffs, earplugs)