

## **DO IT FOR ME**

This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation. Featured are:

**INTRODUCTION:** A brief description of the program and the subject that it addresses.

**PROGRAM OUTLINE:** Summarizes the program content. If the program outline is discussed before the video is presented, the entire program will be more meaningful and successful.

**PREPARING FOR AND CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION:** These sections will help you set up the training environment, help you relate the program to site-specific incidents, and provide program objectives for focusing your presentation.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Questions may be copied and given to participants to stimulate discussion about the program, its safety lessons and universal theme.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this unique safety presentation, we witness children using common excuses not to wear safety gear: "It's uncomfortable," "Don't worry, nothing will happen to me," etc. Of course, the parents do not give in to these childish excuses and explain to their children why safety rules must be followed. But when the kids discover their parents using those same childish excuses at work, they wonder how their parents' attitudes would change if their children were to come to work with them. As each child begins to perform the same job tasks as their parents, the adults' safety attitudes quickly change, explaining how important workplace safety is and insisting that the children follow procedures and wear proper protective equipment. The children then drive home the point that the adults should protect themselves at work with the same passion with which they would protect their child. They also explain that the adults should be just as quick to stop an adult co-worker from committing the same types of unsafe acts, "because everybody is somebody's child."

### ***PROGRAM OUTLINE***

#### **CHILDREN PRAISE THEIR PARENTS**

- "My dad can fix anything. At his job, he's a maintenance worker. He says he has to fix things other people tear up. I guess that's why he's good at fixing my bike."
- "My father drives forklifts. He picks and moves things around at the mill all day long. He can pick up anything and place it anywhere. But as far as driving goes, he says the hardest thing he's ever done is teach me."
- "My mommy makes everything look beautiful. See, look at my hair. When she's at work, she paints things. She can make things that are old and dirty look new again, well, except for my dad."

#### **CHILDREN OFFER EXCUSES FOR NOT WANTING TO WEAR PROTECTIVE DEVICES**

- "Do I have to wear this stuff (referring to rollerblade helmet and pads)? I look ridiculous and can't move," says one child. "Yes, you have to wear it because I don't want anything to happen to you," responds his father.
- "It's (lifejacket) too tight! I won't be able to swim in this; I'll swim better without it!" says a young swimmer. "Honey, I love you. This will help you swim better. Do it for me," responds her mother.

- “But I don’t want to wear the helmet. It just feels weird, especially when I look up. And it makes me sweat. If sweat gets in my eyes, I won’t be able see and I might wreck my bike. I’ll be safe without the helmet,” protests another child. “Is that the best you’ve got? Look, your head is no match for that pavement. Trust me; it’s for your own good. Do it for me,” his father says.

- “Now that I’m driving, if I have to hear about the seatbelt one more time...but Dad, it wrinkles my clothes. Besides, I’m a good driver; I won’t crash,” says a teenager. “Look, no seatbelt, no car. A car crash can happen in a split second and you may not be doing anything wrong. Think of it as a ‘love belt.’ Do it for me, because I love you so much,” responds her dad.

### **CHILDREN STATE WHY THEY NOW WEAR THEIR PROTECTIVE DEVICES**

- “Yes Dad, I wear my seatbelt,” says the teen driver. “I do it for you.”

- The biker child says “Even though I don’t always want to, I wear my helmet because you asked me to; and, that pavement really is pretty hard.”

- “Mommy, I wear my lifejacket and swimmies just for you,” states the young swimmer.

- The rollerblading boy says “I wear all these pads for you. Plus it hurts a lot less when I fall. But I’ve been hearing that you have been using some of my excuses at work.”

### **PARENTS MAKING EXCUSES FOR NOT WEARING PROTECTIVE DEVICES AT WORK**

- You expect to hear excuses for not wearing protection from kids, but what does it say when an adult uses the same excuses as a child?

- “I don’t see how you wear that thing (fall arrest system). I feel like I can’t move around. I’ll work better without it,” the swimmer’s mother says.

- While operating a forklift, the teenage driver’s dad responds to an employee who asks him if he forgot to attach his seatbelt on the forklift. “It’s a little tight on the old gut, you know. Plus I have to get on and off a lot. Besides, I’m a good driver; I haven’t wrecked yet.”

- “This hard hat’s driving me nuts, especially when I look up,” says the bike rider’s father. “Plus it’s making me sweat. You know, if sweat gets in my eyes, I might trip over something and get hurt. I’m ditching this thing.”

- “All that gear (hard hat and respirator) is just way too bulky,” complains the rollerblader’s dad. “Makes me feel like I can’t move. Plus, you look ridiculous.”

### **CHILDREN RESPOND TO PARENTS’ EXCUSES**

- “Wow, that’s just not right. I wear all my safety gear for you, but you won’t do it for me?” asks the rollerblader.

- The teenage driver asks, “Do you think I love you any less than you love me?”

- “Just between us, that excuse is pretty lame!” exclaims the bike rider.

- The young swimmer asks, “What if something happened to you?”

- “I’ll bet you would act differently if I was there with you. If I was doing the same job as you,” says the bike rider.

## **CHILDREN GO TO WORK WITH THEIR PARENTS**

- The bike rider and his dad arrive at his dad's job site and prepare to enter a hazardous area. As they prepare to enter a hazardous area, his father hands him a hardhat and tells him to put it on. "Why? That think looks really hot," his son says. His dad tells him that it isn't actually that bad and that the employees wear them because their heads are no match for things that could fall on their heads. A co-worker adds that when he grows up, the boy will realize that not getting hurt is "the most important part of your job." The kid then says if his being at his dad's job site helped him to remember to wear his safety equipment, he should wear it all the time. "Trust me: it's for your own good. Do it for me," he says.
- When the rollerblader goes to his father's workplace, Dad explains that workers have to protect against unexpected releases by wearing a respirator and goggles. "All that stuff just to go in there? That seems like a lot of trouble. Plus, that guy (dad's co-worker with equipment on) looks ridiculous." His dad responds by telling him that they don't think of safety equipment as a lot of trouble. "Maybe you're too young to understand, but me staying safe is more than just about me, it's about you too." His son replies, "Yeah, I get it, just like I wear my rollerblade pads for you, you wear all this stuff for me. Because you know I don't want you to get hurt."
- At the mill where the teenage driver's dad works, he explains that you always wear your seatbelt on the forklift in case it tips over. He adds that the safest place to be during a tip-over is inside the protective cage. "But I'm a good driver. Plus, I have to get on and off a lot," complains the teen. "Every time," says her dad. "Yes Dad, every time. I'll do it for you. Will you do it for me?" she asks.
- The young swimmer imagines going up in the scissor lift with her mother at her mom's workplace. As the little girl complains that her harness is too tight and promises not to fall out, her mother says, "I know you wouldn't fall out on purpose, honey, no one would. This harness makes sure you don't fall out by accident." The girl then makes her mother promise to always wear her harness. Her mother agrees, saying, "I'm extra careful, every day, just so I can get home to be with you."

## **CHILDREN ASK QUESTIONS WHEN COMMITTING UNSAFE ACTS**

- "If I used a ladder and stood on the very top step, would you be worried about me?" the young biker asks from the top of a ladder.
- "If I was taking apart a machine, how would you feel if the power wasn't locked out? Would that make you nervous?" asks the teenage driver while servicing some workplace equipment.
- "I'm not sure what this chemical is; the label had some kind of warning stuff written on it, but I didn't bother to read it. You okay with that?" the rollerblader asks.
- The parents respond in each situation by stressing to his or her child the safe way to do the job.

## **RESPONDING TO UNSAFE ACTS OF CO-WORKERS**

- All of the unsafe acts just committed by the children are now done by co-workers of the parents. The parents respond to these situations just as they did when their children were involved.
- "You know, you should help keep everybody safe, because everybody is somebody's child," says the bike rider.
- "Because everybody needs a little help sometimes," adds the teen driver.

- “Because everybody has somebody who loves them,” concludes the young swimmer.

### **CUMULATIVE VS. IMMEDIATE HAZARDS**

- A young girl at the lake argues with her mom about applying sunscreen on her nose. While the kid complains that the sun isn’t that bright and the sunscreen will make her “look like a dork,” her mother responds, “Just do it for me.”
- Often adults have same problem as the girl at the lake: not protecting themselves from a hazard whose effects are cumulative rather than immediate.
- When the sunscreen girl’s mom goes to work at a noisy part of the plant, a co-worker tells her she needs to put in her ear plugs. “Oh, I don’t wear ever wear them. Besides, it’s not that loud.” Her daughter responds by saying that if her mother makes her wear sunscreen when out in the sun, Mom should also wear her ear plugs so she doesn’t go deaf from the noise at work.
- As parents and guardians, you understand the need to protect children from dangers they don’t think about. You should protect yourself also.

### **CONCLUSION**

- The purpose of this program was to make you think about safety from a different point of view.
- We reviewed some of the excuses children use not to wear safety equipment and demonstrated how childish it seems when adults use those same excuses at work.
- We have seen how the reasons given to a child to follow safety rules are equally valid for adults.
- We showed how the adults in this program changed their attitude about safety when their children came to work with them, in hopes that you grown ups will learn to protect yourself in the same manner, every time.
- We even saw how both children and adults can be reluctant to protect themselves from hazards whose effects are not immediate.
- Finally, we learned how adults are quick to stop a child from committing unsafe acts and pointed out that they should be just as quick to protect a co-worker from similar dangers.

## **PREPARE FOR THE SAFETY MEETING OR TRAINING SESSION**

Review each section of this Leader's Guide as well as the videotape. Here are a few suggestions for using the program:

Make everyone aware of the importance the company places on health and safety and how each person must be an active member of the safety team.

Introduce the videotape program. Play the videotape without interruption. Review the program content by presenting the information in the program outline.

Copy the discussion questions included in this Leader's Guide and hand them out to the program participants.

Make an attendance record and have each participant sign the form. Maintain the attendance record written documentation of the training performed.

### **Here are some suggestions for preparing your videotape equipment and the room or area you use:**

Check the room or area for quietness, adequate ventilation and temperature, lighting and unobstructed access.

Check the seating arrangement and the audiovisual equipment to ensure that all participants will be able to see and hear the videotape program.

Place or secure extension cords to prevent them from becoming a tripping hazard.

## **CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION**

Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person the opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.

Explain that the primary purpose of the program is to show that when it comes to safety, employees should look out for themselves the same ways they should look out for the safety of their children.

Introduce the videotape program. Play the videotape without interruption. Review the program content by presenting the information in the program outline.

Lead discussions about the lessons to be learned from the children in the program.

Copy the discussion questions included in this Leader's Guide and allow the participants to review them before discussing the program.

**DO IT FOR ME**  
***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

1. When children are placed in harm's way, adults are quick to step in. Would you do the same if you saw a co-worker committing an unsafe act? Why or why not?
2. Do you look out for your own safety the same way you look out for your child's? Why or why not?
3. If one of your children were to spend a day with you here at work, would he or she see you performing your job as safely as possible? Would you have to give extra effort to make sure you followed all safety rules? If so, what does that say about your commitment to safety?
4. Have you ever thought about your children as you prepared to perform a task here at work? If so, what action did these thoughts influence you to take?
5. Have you ever made excuses for not wearing proper protective gear or taking a shortcut similar to the ones made by the children in the video? If so, what are the excuses and what have you done to make sure they don't allow you to perform your job unsafely?