

Specific lesson letters for 4K-2

SHELTER LETTER

Dear Families,

This week we are beginning our lessons on the Standard Response Protocol. We developed the lessons specifically for our 4K-2 grades.

We'll start with a lesson on Shelter. We'll talk about different reasons we might need to seek shelter, such as a thunderstorm or tornado warning. We'll practice staying away from windows, sitting with our backs against a wall, and being quiet.

You can read the lesson below. If you have any questions, please contact me or visit mmsd.org/safety.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Principal, School Name]

Lesson: SHELTER

Lesson concepts:

In the event of severe weather or other hazard/emergency, students may be directed to a location and asked to "Shelter" until given the "all clear."

Key words:

Shelter
Severe Weather
Tornado Watch
Tornado Warning

Objectives:

Students will understand different events that prompt the need for us to Shelter. Student will demonstrate the skills to move to the identified Shelter location and perform needed positioning to protect themselves (e.g., backs against the wall in the identified location for a tornado).

Why this lesson matters:

Teaching students about events where Sheltering to protect oneself is important. Using an all hazards approach changes our response from "tornado drill" to the idea that different types of events require going to a specific location and doing a particular action to stay safe.

Teaching notes:

Review the Emergency Procedures Flip Chart sections on Tornado/Severe Weather, Lightning/Severe Weather, and Shelter.

Materials:

- Map of building with the location and route to get to Shelter area
- Poster of Shelter symbol

Considerations for individuals with specific needs (e.g., student with a disability):

Do you have students with mobility needs? Are there concerns regarding the location or path to the identified Shelter area? Do you have students with other needs that need to be planned in a Shelter situation?

Introduction: Today we are beginning our lessons on school safety responses. School safety responses are the plans adults made, ahead of time, to make sure that everyone stays safe in case there is ever an emergency at school. There are 5 common actions and today we will be learning the first one, how and when to Shelter. There are many reasons we need to seek Shelter quickly and quietly to keep ourselves safe here at school.

Story and discussion: What does it mean to Shelter? (take a few hands) What are some reasons we might need to Shelter? (severe weather, tornado) Sometimes we need to be quiet when we Shelter so we can hear directions. During severe weather we need to seek Shelter away from windows. Or during a tornado warning we seek Shelter in the hallway in a position to protect ourselves. Right now, find a place along the wall to practice sitting with your back against the wall. You can either bend your knees or sit criss cross, then put your head to your knees and use your hands to cover your face and neck. Remember to be as quiet as you can so everybody can hear any directions given by other teachers or the principal. In the spring the whole school will practice how to Shelter in place. Let's go walk to the designated area and practice again.

Skill practice:

Activity 1: After your school's 1st semester Shelter drill, review the steps.

Get indoors (if outside).

Walk to Shelter area.

Sit with back against the wall, head down against knees, and cover your neck and face with your arms (for tornado).

Stay in the Shelter location until the "all clear" is announced.

Wrap up: Address any remaining questions or concerns.