3 Homemade Workplace Safety Topics

We know what our kids have been hired to do. Do we really know what’s going on each day at their work? Are they adequately protected from personal injury or other factors that could negatively impact them - stress, verbal, physical or sexual harassment among others? Below are three topics and discussion points to introduce in your home over dinner, sitting around watching TV or any other time you’re together.

1. The Workplace
   Tell me about the equipment you work with?
   Is there anything dangerous that can hurt you?
   Is all the proper guarding on equipment?
   Has anyone been injured?
   Have you heard any stories about people getting injured or harassed?
   Do people treat each other well?

2. The People
   Does your employer (boss) take safety seriously?
   Do they make sure that all the equipment is in good repair?
   Do things get fixed when they’re broken?
   Have you ever been asked to do anything you thought was unsafe?
   Has anyone ever made you feel uncomfortable in any way?

3. The 3 Basic Rights
   Are you familiar with the 3 basic rights?*
   What would you do if you were asked to do something you thought was unsafe?
   Is there someone to talk to if you feel a job isn’t safe?
   Are you concerned you might get fired if you don’t do jobs that you think could be dangerous?
   Do you know you can’t get fired if you refuse to do a task because you’re afraid you might get hurt?

*The right to know, the right to participate, the right to refuse unsafe work (see back)
The Three Basic Rights

The Occupational Health and Safety Act gives every worker important rights.

1. **The right to know.** You have the right to know the hazards in your job. Your employer or supervisor must tell you about anything in your job that can hurt you. Your employer must make sure you are provided with the information you need so that you can work safely.

2. **The right to participate.** You have the right to take part in keeping your workplace healthy and safe. Depending on the size of the company, you can be part of the Health and Safety Committee or be a Health and Safety Representative. You also have the right to participate in training and information sessions to help you do your job safely.

3. **The right to refuse unsafe work.** If you believe your job is likely to endanger you, you have an obligation to report the unsafe situation to management. If the situation is not corrected and you feel your health and safety is still in danger, you have the right under the OHSA to refuse to perform the work without reprisal.

For more information: [www.BringSafetyHome.com](http://www.BringSafetyHome.com)