

Tractor & P.T.O. Safety

Objective

Learn about the various types of farm machinery and equipment that are commonly used on a farm and how the farmer must be responsible and safe when using tractors.

Props

- On six blank pieces of paper write the following S. T. O. P. I. T. – using one letter per page.
- A hi vis vest.

Getting started:

1. The Seasons:

Write the four seasons on the blackboard.

Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Now ask the children to mention key farm activities that take place in each season: eg. Spring: lambing, calving, sowing crops, ploughing the soil / Summer: hay making, baling, etc. / Autumn: Harvest / Winter: slurry spreading (Jan/Feb), ploughing, etc.

Now ask the children to mention key farm machinery used during each season.

2. Tractor Driving:

It's time for some tractor work!

Choose one child to play the role of the farmer and ask them to bring their chair to the top of the class. Now ask the class to list out the various safety checks the 'farmer' must do before they start their day's work.

Write the answers on the board!

Now ask the 'farmer' to put on their hi vis vest and to pretend to sit into the tractor – what else must they put on at this point – their seat belt! Remind the children why seat belts are so important.

Now ask 6 volunteers to come to the top of the class. Explain that it is the end of the working day and the 'farmer' is returning to the farm to park their tractor for the night. But is it important that the tractor is parked safely and securely – this is where S.T.O.P.I.T. comes into play.

Hand each of the 6 volunteers a 'S.T.O.P.I.T.' letter with the class reminding you of what each letter stands for:

- S** – Stop the tractor in a Safe place. Farmers should park the Tractor facing forward. This means they don't have to reverse it out when using it again.
- T** – Take up the hand break and prevent the tractor from rolling.
- O** – Take the tractor Out of gear and feet Off the pedals
- P** – Put the bucket or fork down.
- I** – Turn off the Ignition
- T** – Take out the keys. Leaving keys in the tractor means the farmers is at risk of it being stolen or driven by someone with no permission to do so.

How about rewarding with some of the machinery we have been talking about!

