

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

# SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK!

Who remembers School House Rock on Saturday mornings? Which one are you quietly singing right now? Yes, I know, just the mention of "School House Rock" has many of us who grew up with it singing one of those catchy little tunes at just the mention of the name.

Originally airing from 1973 to 1985, they became a staple on Saturday mornings as we watched Saturday morning cartoons. They were on in between the cartoons and the commercials, and just before American Bandstand and Soul Train. They were those animated catchy little tunes singing about grammar, history, science, economics, math, and civics. With "Conjunction Junction", you were **taught** what a conjunction was and when to use it. With "I'm Just a Bill", you were **taught** the process of how a bill becomes a law; and "No More Kings" was about how America became a free country – free from Kings. What is the key word here? (Come on, I've highlighted them for you) That's right, "**taught**". Did we know we were being taught? Heck no...it was all about dancing around the living room and singing that so-easy-to-remember song and watching the very clever animation of that time. Each one was presented in an educational, animated musical format.

The idea for School House Rock was born when the creator noticed one of his sons who was having trouble in school remembering his multiplication tables, knew the lyrics to many current rock songs. And so an idea was born.

In the past three years, I have come upon some great safety and preparedness websites for kids of all ages that incorporate learning with games and animation. They are educational, but more importantly they are fun! Seven out of the ten websites have pages for **Teachers and Parents too!** Anytime we can combine learning with fun and games is a plus for education as far as I am concerned. I hope you visit the sites I recommend. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, caregiver or teacher, you will love sharing these learning tools with your kids.





<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/index.htm>

➔ Resources for Parents and Teachers

**Weather Wiz Kids** website was designed by Crystal Wicker, a television meteorologist for an ABC affiliate in Indianapolis. Her goal was to have a website for kids that would allow them to learn more about weather. It was also designed with parents and teachers in mind as a resource tool for them to teach their children. The navigation bar to the left has over 30 learning topics from everything to types of weather, experiments, vocabulary, photos, weather safety, a career corner, and a place to ask questions and get answers from the creator herself and of course games!



Fun for all ages!

<http://www.weather.gov/om/reachout/kidspage.shtml>

### **National Weather Service**

This link will take you directly to the National Weather Service page for kids, and "Playtime for Kids". The "Other Fun Stuff" has links to the "Space Place", "Building Blocks for a Healthy Future", Coloring Books, and more! All links lead to a fun, and educational way to teach children and students about climate, water and weather.



<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/kids/flash.shtml>

➔ Resources for Parents and Teachers

### **U.S. Fire Administration for Kids**

You will learn all about fire safety at USFA Kids. With a click of a mouse, you can take a few short lessons on Home Fire Safety, Smoke Alarms and Escaping from Fire. There are crossword puzzles, coloring pages, word searches, a matching game (my favorite), and a Become a Jr. Fire Marshal game. This is really a great way to educate kids while having fun.



<http://www.sce.com/kidsscience/>  
**TEACHER'S GUIDE**

### **Southern California Edison's Science and Safety of Electricity**

This website is designed for students in grades 6 through 10. Parents and teachers alike will enjoy this site as well. This site uses articles, experiments, and interactive games to teach students about the science of electricity, and how to use it safely in daily life. In the middle of the home page is a "Teacher's Guide" link that will give them an overview of the site. You will learn what static electricity is and what makes lightning; what is a watt and how do circuit breakers work; what happens if you mix water and electricity; and how electricity gets to us among other things. Yes, there are games on this site as well. Grown ups are guaranteed to learn a few things too!



<http://www.sce.com/kids/>



### **Southern California Edison's Electrical Safety World**

Electrical Safety World uses information, experiments, games, and activities to teach students the principles and practices of electrical safety. The site is geared towards a range of interests and reading levels and can be used by students in elementary and middle school. (Non-readers will be able to play the games with adult assistance.)

Topics include How Electricity Can Hurt You, the Travels of Electricity, In case of emergency, Tree & Power Line safety and of course, games!

A **Teacher's Guide** contains three sections:

- [Site overview.](#)
- [Questions and activities to review key safety principles.](#)
- [Experiments, guidance and set-up.](#)



Kidd Safety

<http://www.cpsc.gov/kids/kidsafety/index.html>

The Kidd Safety website is geared towards preventing unreasonable risks of injuries to children associated with consumer products. Come explore and play all of Kidd's challenging safety games!



<http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>

**Ready Kids**

Fun and games with lessons, Ready Kids Activity Book, Preparedness resources and links, and a special link for Parents & Teachers. With FEMA Ready Kids, you will discover how to create an emergency kit, make a plan, know the facts and graduate from Readiness U! Games, coloring pages, puzzles and hidden treasure activities...all with a click of the mouse!



<http://www.sparky.org/cool.html>

Let Sparky the Fire Dog teach you about fire and life safety with games and activities on his web site. Fire safety tips, hunt for home hazards, escape planning, home safety checklist, take a tour of a fire truck and much more fun can be found on this website.

→ Resources for Parents and Teachers



→ Resources for Parents and Teachers  
<http://www.fema.gov/kids/index.htm>

Let Herman the FEMA crab teach you how to be prepared for disasters and prevent disaster damage. Learn what causes disasters, play games, read stories and become a Disaster Action Kid. Parents and Teachers there is a page for you with activities, curriculum and safety information you can use in the classroom and at home. This is so cool!



<http://www.coderedrover.org/>  
→ Resources for Parents and Teachers

This site is brought to you by the Home Safety Council. Meet Rover the Code Red Safety Dog and his safety friends Freddie Flashlight, Simon and Penelope. Learning can be so much fun with all the games on this website. Under the "Safety Zone", you can download activity books, stickers, an emergency escape plan and a safety guide for grownups. Teachers, there is a resource page just for you with downloadable lesson plans, additional links and Spanish materials too! Parents, we haven't forgotten you! You have your very home page as well. Come check it out!



As you can see, there is a lot of great information out there geared towards safety and preparedness for all ages—and it's all free! You just need to tap into it. Like the old saying goes, "**Knowledge is Power.**" How powerful are you!



Oh, and by the way, if you are interested, there is a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of School House Rock available for purchase for both home and classroom. Some classics never die! Rock On.

