General Science Safety Checklist

✓ Appropriate protective equipment for the science laboratory is in place.
✓ Enforcement of safety procedures is documented.
✓ Have students wash their hands after doing experiments and clean up any spills immediately.
✓ Be aware of allergic reactions and other potential hazards, especially when working with plants, animals, foods, soils, etc.
✓ Always insist that students, teachers and volunteers use science equipment only as directed.
✓ Provide sufficient space for hands on activities.
✓ All students must wear proper safety goggles whenever chemicals, glassware or heat is used.
✓ Do not allow any papers near light sources when doing experiments.
✓ Eliminate or alter any potentially dangerous activities or potential problems (long hair, jewelry, loose clothing, large plastic bags, poisonous plants/seeds, toxic materials).
✓ Provide adequate labeling on equipment, chemicals and hazards.
✓ Good role modeling is essential.
✓ Keep exits unobstructed and clearly marked.
✓ Be certain that master shut-off switches for gas, water and electricity are clearly marked.
✓ Make sure safety rules and charts posted where activities are used.
✓ Keep records on safety training and lab incidents.
✓ Emergency exit/escape plans should be posted and practiced.
✓ Live animals and students are protected from one another.
✓ Ventilate the room sufficiently. Be sensitive to students’ complaints regarding odors.
✓ Caution students about possible problems with batteries (leakage, shocks, short-circuits)

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