

LEARN ABOUT CHARGING BATTERIES



Grade Level: K–2

Subject: Safe Charging / Safety

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Standards Alignment

This lesson supports early elementary safety education goals, including:

- Understanding safe use of everyday technology
- Identifying safe vs. unsafe behaviors in the home environment
- Demonstrating personal responsibility for safety with adult guidance

Lesson Goal

Students will understand that some toys and electronics have rechargeable batteries that need to be charged in a safe place, and that they should ask a grown-up before plugging anything in.

Lesson Objective

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify common toys and electronics that use rechargeable batteries
- Explain that batteries need to be charged to work
- Recognize safe charging places (flat, hard surface) and unsafe places (like a bed or couch)
- Ask a grown-up before plugging anything in

Materials

- The image of the child and grown-up plugging in to charge
- “Safe or Not Safe” flashcards
- “Charge It or Not” activity sheet
- “Sparky Safe Charging” coloring sheet
- NFPA “Buy, Charge, Recycle” safety tip sheet for parents/caregivers



Introduction / Talk Time

(5 minutes)

Ask:

"What are some things your grown-ups plug in to charge?"

Examples: phones, watches, laptops, electric toothbrush, vacuums

Ask:

"What are some things YOU use that need to be charged?"

Examples: tablets, toy cars, game controller, headphones



Say:

"All these things have batteries inside. We plug them in to charge the battery and give it power. But we have to charge them safely."

Look and Talk

(5 minutes)



Explain:

"When we charge, it should always be on something hard like a table, a desk, or a counter. These are flat, hard, and safe. Soft places like a bed or couch can get hot and are not safe for charging."

Show:

The image of the child and grown-up plugging in to charge (projected or printed)

RHYME FOR REINFORCEMENT:

"Table or desk, that's the spot.
Bed or couch, it gets too hot."

Ask:

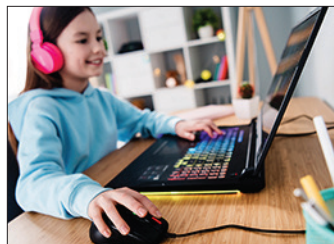
- "What's happening in this picture?"
- "Where are they charging?" (in the kitchen, on a counter)
- "Is this a safe place?" (Yes, because it is hard and flat)
- "Is someone helping?" (Yes, a grown-up)

Game: Safe or Not Safe?

(10 minutes)

Hold up or project each picture and ask, "Is this **SAFE** or **NOT SAFE**?" Students answer together, "Safe!" or "Not safe!" (Thumbs up/down optional.)

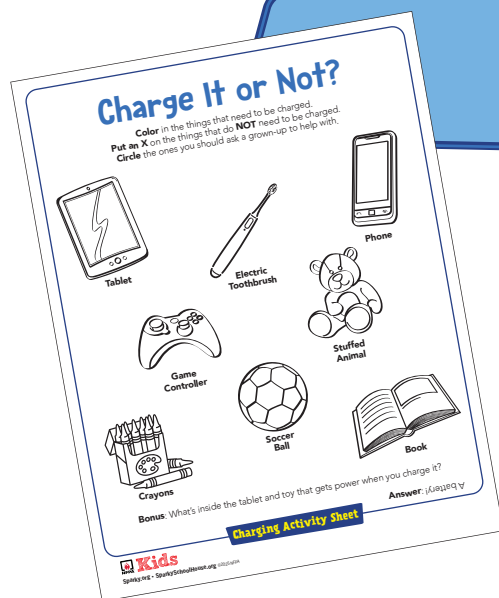
- Charging a computer on a desk – SAFE
- Charging a computer on a bed – NOT SAFE
- Charging a phone on a hard surface – SAFE
- Charging a tablet on a rug – NOT SAFE
- Charging an electric toothbrush on a hard surface – SAFE
- Charging a game controller on a soft surface – NOT SAFE



Activity Sheet

(5 minutes)

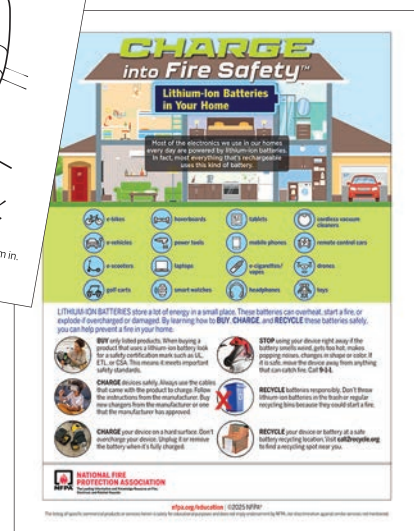
Hand out the "Charge It or Not" activity sheet. Guide students through one or two examples, and then allow time to finish independently.



WRAP-UP AND TAKE-HOME

(5 minutes)

Provide students with the "Sparky Safe Charging" coloring sheet to complete in class or at home. Include the NFPA's "Buy, Charge, Recycle" safety tip sheet in each student's backpack for parents and caregivers.



SAFE CHARGING

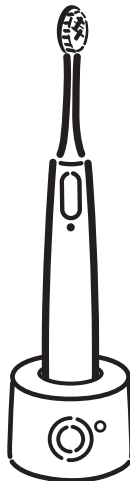


Charge It or Not?

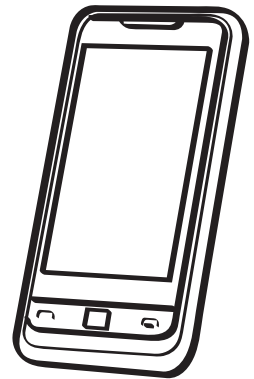
CIRCLE the things that need to be charged.
PUT AN X on the things that do **NOT** need to be charged.



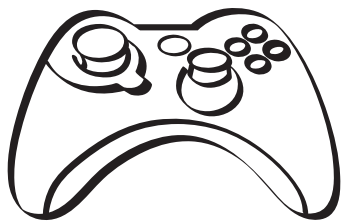
Tablet



Electric
Toothbrush



Phone



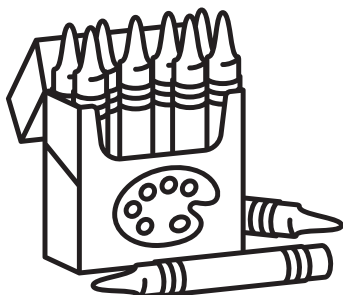
Game
Controller



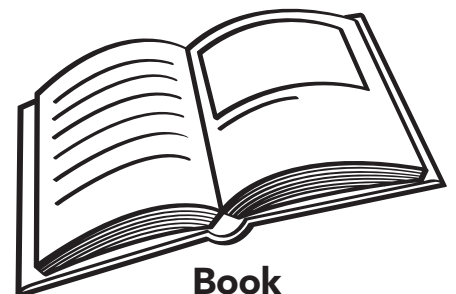
Stuffed
Animal



Soccer
Ball



Crayons



Book

BONUS: What's inside the tablet and toy that gets power when you charge it?

Answer: A battery!

SAFE OR NOT SAFE



SAFE OR NOT SAFE



SAFE OR NOT SAFE

