WHAT’S THE SAFE CHOICE?

Instructions: Staying safe around electricity means making smart choices. Read each story and choose the safe choice for each character to make. Explain why the other choice is not safe.

1. Last night the wind blew fiercely and the rain poured down for hours. It had been hard for Olive to sleep while tree branches tapped on her window. In the morning, the sky was clear but the ground was still wet. As she walked to school, Olive noticed a wire dangling from a pole on the street. What should she do?

   Choice A: Make sure her hands are dry and carefully tie up the wire so it doesn’t hang down.
   Choice B: Stay away and tell an adult to call 911 and the electric company to report the dangling wire.

2. William was thrilled when his parents told him he would be spending the weekend with his grandmother. She had a room filled with old telephones, radios, and televisions that his grandfather used to repair. To William, it was like a treasure chest. Rummaging through dusty boxes, he found something unusual. It had an electric plug that looked a little frayed, but he couldn’t wait to see what it might do when switched on. What should he do?

   Choice A: Attempt to repair the cord with some tape before plugging it in.
   Choice B: Not plug in the mystery object. Instead, give it to his grandmother for a professional to repair.

3. Splash! The radio bubbled as it sank to the bottom of the kitchen sink. Miguel was reaching for a paper towel for his little brother when his elbow accidentally bumped the radio. The sink was full of water because Miguel’s mother was soaking a soup pot in it. It had happened so quickly. What should he do?

   Choice A: Keep his little brother away from the sink and tell his parents right away.
   Choice B: Reach into the sink and pull out the radio before it soaks up any more water.

REMEMBER: Tell a grown-up right away if you see anything unsafe.