Lightning Safety Lesson Plan for Pre-Schoolers

(3-5 Year Olds)

* Have colorful lightning safety posters or pictures on display for kids to look at. You can download them from <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/posters.htm>
* Pass around an anemometer so they can spin a propeller while you talk about what

weather forecasters do and how this is the way we measure the winds. You can buy a small anemometer online for a nominal cost

* Have the kids sit as a group while you lead them through a thunderstorm lifecycle:
  + Pat top of legs/clap hands to imitate rain drops, lightly and slow at first, then louder and faster.
  + Raise your voice to say “boom” for thunder. Get a bit louder as the "thunderstorm" peaks.
  + Decrease the thunder volume and speed as the “thunderstorm” dies out.
  + Decrease the volume and speed of rain as the “thunderstorm” continues to die.
  + Make one last surprise boom at the end just for fun and remind kids that thunder can happen after the rain stops.
* Have the kids repeat, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors,” getting louder like thunder
* Ask them what they do outside. If no one answers, have some suggestions:

swimming, bicycling, playground, soccer, etc.

* + Select 2-3 kids who suggested an activity and have them pretend they are outside swimming, playing, etc.
  + Designate a playhouse or corner as the place to go inside.
  + Say “Boom” and remind the actors that "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.". You might also pick another set of kids to be the “house,” standing up facing each other, with arms reaching up and forward to be the roof.
  + Quickly lead the sitting kids through the thunderstorm again.
  + Quickly chase around just behind them with crackling noises and outstretched arms with wiggling fingers, "I'm lightning, you're outside where I can get you!"
  + Once everyone is inside, you fall to the ground too tired to do anything more because you bumped into the house.
* Have the kids repeat “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.”
* Ask if anyone is afraid of thunder. Then ask if they know how to stay safe now
* Close with more round of repeating the rule in unison, "If Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!"