Time Out For Safety

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TIME OUT FOR SAFETY

(A Playlet)

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension Service
Lafayette, Indiana
TIME OUT FOR SAFETY

Mrs. Bernard Heck
Nevinettes Home Demonstration Club
Vigo County

Theme: Accidents will happen, yet only a few accidents just "happen." Most of them are caused by ignorance, carelessness, or lack of skill.

Characters:

John Smith: the father, who can never find time to do anything around the house.

Mary Smith: the mother, who is a member of Pinesville Hoosier Home Demonstration Club.

Jane Smith: The three year old daughter, who has started to adventure around outside of the house. (Does not have a speaking part).

Suzie Smith: The seven year old daughter, who is a nosey little girl.

Mayor Wilson: Mayor of Pinesville, who believes everything that is told to him by certain people of the town.

Mrs. Cramer: County president of Home Demonstration

Mrs. Brown: Chairman of the new safety program

ACT I
(SCENE I)

(The opening scene finds Mary and children hurrying in from Home Demonstration club meeting to find that John is home for supper. Mary doesn't speak--goes on through to start
supper. Suzie and Jane stay in with John.)

John: (looking up from newspaper) Well, it is about time you three came home. Where have you been?

Suzie: (excited) We went to the club meeting and daddy, they showed pictures.

John: Now, what kind of pictures would they show at that silly club your mother belongs to?

Suzie: (yelling to mother) Mommy, tell him about those pictures! (Mary enters room putting on her apron to find out what Suzie is excited about.)

Mary: Yes, John they showed pictures at club today on Safety, since our lesson was on Home Safety. It was quite interesting. It makes a person realize that things around your own home aren't safe.

John: (looking startled at what his wife has said) I know that there are things that need fixing around here but I never have time to do them. If we could stay home on our vacation this year, maybe I could get most of them cleaned up.

Mary: (making no comment on the statement made leaves the room) I'll fix supper.

John: (yelling after her) You didn't say whether you would give up your vacation. (Still no comment from Mary as she rattles dishes.)

John: Suzie, what do you think about us fixing the house up?
Suzie: (Eagerly) I think that it's a great idea. The other day down at the grocery, Mrs. Brown said to me "When is your dad going to fix up around your place so that it will be safe for you children? That well has never been closed and I'm surprised that one of you young'un's hasn't fallen in it.

John: (looking very angry) Oh! She did. Well, you tell her it isn't any of her old nosey business, and that if she does have anything to say, she should say it to me.

Suzie: But daddy, she is the head of the new safety program they are starting. She was at the club meeting and she mentioned that again and looked right at mother. (Mary calls supper.)

John: Well, we will talk to mother after supper. Let us eat now.

(SCENE II)

(The whole family enters living room talking about the good supper)

Mary: (looking tired) Gee I can't believe I've gotten supper over and the dishes done. I wouldn't have, if you hadn't helped me dear.

John: I don't mind helping you once in a while. And that was a very good supper. I needed a little exercise since I ate too much.

Mary: (laughing) Oh! Now that wasn't enough work to help much.

Suzie: (still excited) When are we going to do that talking about our old house?
John: (looking over at Mary) Well, mother hasn't given us an answer about our vacation.

Mary: (looking disgusted) I guess it would be best to give up our vacation.

John: (getting paper and pencil) In that case, we will make a list of hazards and then we can mark them off, as we correct them. I think the first, should be the top of the well. Suzie says old nosy Brown is worrying about it.

Mary: Yes, she gave me a sharp look today at club. Then there is that rail out of the bannister. Jane could easily fall through that when I'm not watching. And honey, we need a light in the basement stairway and in that walk-in closet upstairs.

John: And with the money we would spend on our vacation we can buy a new linoleum for the kitchen. Just the other night I almost fell in there. I tripped on that piece that sticks up.

Suzie: Daddy, in that picture they showed of a lady falling off of a chair. We could get a stepladder for mother. She is always climbing on a chair.

John: Why, Suzie I believe you are really in favor of this.

Suzie: Well, gee whiz, I want this to be a good home when I have kids coming in to play, I don't want them to get hurt.

Mary: By the way, when do you get your vacation?
John: I start Monday. We can start this Saturday. And maybe we can get it done so we can run up to your folks the last few days. Let's all go to bed and get a good night's rest and we can talk more tomorrow.

ACT II
(SCENE 1)

(Three weeks later and all work is done on the house. Same scenery as in Act I. (All in the living room with John looking out the window)

John: Why, here comes the mayor, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Cramer. Wonder what they are coming here for?

Mary: (getting excited) I can't believe it. They have never been here before.

Suzie: (looking shy) You always told me not listen but I heard Mrs. Brown turn your name in for the safety contest. Maybe they are coming to check the house.

John: (looking with a smirky smile) Well the old nosey bodies will get their eyes full. (Knock on the door)

John: (answering the door) Well, this is a surprise. Come In.

Mayor Wilson: Good afternoon Mr. Smith I hope we aren't intruding but we have a contest on safety going on and your name was turned into us. We are inspecting all those that were turned in. I hope that you will cooperate.

John: (sarcastic) I'm very pleased to be picked. I can imagine who turned my name in. (turning towards Mrs. Brown.)
John: Hello Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Cramer.

Mrs. Brown: (sarcastic) Now we must inspect these homes by ourselves so that we can talk our view points over between us.

Mary: (trying to make John stop talking before he says too much) That is quite all right here in our living room. (Mayor and women leave room).

John: (laughing) I would like to see that old noisy body's face when she finds our house in top shape.

Mary: (laughing too) John be quiet. They will hear you.

SCENE II

(The three re-enter room talking among themselves.)

Mayor: Without a doubt this is the winner.

Mrs. Cramer: (acting disgusted) Well, it sure isn't like Mrs. Brown said it was. I agree this is the one.

Mrs. Brown: (looking hurt) It was like I said it was three weeks ago. When I spoke to that Home Ec. club, it was. Now I'll have to agree this is a perfect example now of an ideal safety home.

Mayor: Well, John and Mary, I have great news for you. You have just won the $100 prize for the safest home in Pinesville.

Mary: (excited) Oh! I'm so glad we had that lesson on safety at our Home Demonstration Club meeting.
John: (excited too) You know, we gave up our vacation trip this year so we could do this and I'm really glad now.

Mayor: I'm glad so many organizations are doing something about Safety instead of just complaining about the lack of safety.

Suzie: Boy, will I have something to tell the kids when school starts! In fact, I think I'll go call some of them right now.