

# More fire safety basics

## Nowhere to hide

Tragically, firefighters often find the bodies of children overcome by smoke in closets or under beds.

**Lesson:** You can't hide from fire. If you hear the sound of a smoke alarm, don't wait, don't hide. Leave the home immediately.

## Kitchen safety

Supervise children if they cook. Turn pot handles inward so children can't grab them. Declare a three-foot "safety zone" around the stove so children aren't underfoot while you're cooking.

**Lesson:** Never use the stove or microwave without permission and only when an adult is around to help.

## Candle safety

In recent years, there has been an increase in fires started by candles. Extinguish candles when you leave the room.

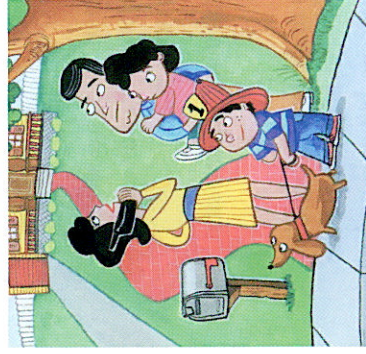
**Lesson:** Don't play with candles and keep things that can burn away from the open flame.



## Home fire drills

Make fire safety planning a family activity.

- ▶ Have children help make a floor plan of your home.
- ▶ Ask them to find two ways out of each room.
- ▶ Discuss escape routes. Ask children for suggestions.
- ▶ Discuss what to do if a primary escape route is blocked. (Choose an alternative exit.)
- ▶ Have children help pick an outside meeting place in front of your home where everyone will gather after they've escaped from a fire.
- ▶ Practice your escape plan by holding regular family fire drills.
- ▶ Be sure children know to escape immediately when they hear the sound of a smoke alarm.



**Lesson:** Get out and stay out! Once you escape from fire, don't go back inside for any reason. Call the fire department from outside.

# Teaching Fire Safety to Children



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Some children start fires and some children die in fires. Protect your family by talking to your kids about fire safety.

### Teaching tips

- ▶ Be calm and reasonable.
- ▶ Don't try to scare children.
- ▶ Teach kids to be responsible about fire by explaining the risks and dangers realistically. Tell the truth.
- ▶ Be confident. Children should feel that the adults in their lives can protect them.
- ▶ Explain how smoke alarms, automatic fire sprinkler systems, and portable fire extinguishers protect your family from fire.



- ▶ Involve your children in home fire safety. Have them help you make a family escape plan and practice it once a year.
- ▶ Set a good example by practicing fire-safe behavior.
- ▶ Teach older children to use fire responsibly. Have them light candles or help set up a fire in the fireplace or barbecue, but only under direct adult supervision.

## Children's fire safety basics

### Matches & lighters

Use only child-resistant lighters and keep matches and lighters locked away, up high, where children can't reach them.



**Lesson:** Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups. Ask children to tell a grown-up if they find matches or lighters. And have them tell you if they see any child playing with matches or lighters.