

# Fire Safety for Preschoolers

## The Facts:

Children are particularly vulnerable to burns and fire deaths. To prevent fire and burn injuries from affecting your pre-schooler, teach them the following fire and life safety lessons.

- Tell a grown-up when you find matches and lighters.
- Practice an escape plan.
- Crawl low under smoke.
- Cool a burn.
- Stop, Drop and Roll.

Teaching the above lessons have been proven to save lives. Together we can make a difference.

## Tell a grown-up when you find matches and lighters

- Matches and lighters are one of the leading causes of fire deaths among young children. Most children are fascinated with fire and try to imitate adult behavior.

## Teaching Tips:

- Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups, not toys for children.
- Keep lighters and matches stored safely out of reach and sight in a locked container.
- Teach children to tell a grown-up when they find matches and lighters. They should not touch them.
- Remind smokers to keep matches and lighters safely out of reach.
- Continuous supervision of young children is the best prevention.

## Practice an escape plan

Young children often die in fires because they try to hide from smoke or flames. These needless deaths may easily be prevented by developing a home escape plan.

## Teaching tips:

- Teach children that a smoke alarm warns them of fire or smoke and when they hear the sound, they should start their home escape plan.
- As a family, develop a home escape plan which includes two ways out of every room.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows your family meeting place outside of your home.
- Practice your plan by sounding the smoke alarm and following your escape routes to your outside meeting place.

- Remind children never to go back inside until a parent or firefighter says it's "O.K."
- Once safely outside, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number from a neighbour's house.
- Crawl low under smoke
- In a fire, smoke containing toxic gases and heat rises toward the ceiling. This means the cleanest air is closest to the floor.

**Teaching tips:**

- Teach them to use an alternate route if they encounter smoke or flames during their escape.
- If they must escape through smoke, children should crawl on their hands and knees staying below the smoke where the air is easier to breathe.

**Cool a burn**

Running cool water over a burn immediately will reduce its severity.

**Teaching tips:**

- Children should be taught to always tell a grown-up if they are burned.
- Cool the burn by placing it under cool water for 10-15 minutes.
- Never use ice, ointments or butter on a burn.
- If the burn injury is serious, seek emergency help immediately. Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.