

SOUND OFF with the HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL



Dear Educator:

Nearly 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States. Most of these victims were in homes without working smoke alarms. Simply put, smoke alarms save lives.

You can help ensure that your students have working smoke alarms in their homes with this free educational program from the Center for National Prevention Initiatives at the Michigan Public Health Institute.

The Sound Off curriculum was developed by specialists at Young Minds Inspired and national fire safety experts. It includes three standards-based classroom activities that get students and families involved in testing their home smoke alarms, checking for potential fire dangers in the home, and planning how to escape in the event of a home fire.

This program is made possible through a grant to the Michigan Public Health Institute from DHS/FEMA's Grant Program Directorate and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – Fire Prevention and Safety Grants.

We thank you in advance for helping to make this life-saving program a success in your community. Please let us know your opinion of the program by returning the enclosed reply card, or respond online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-sound-off.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



For questions, contact us toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

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Target Audience

Second- and third-graders and their families

Program Objectives

- To educate children and their families about smoke alarms, including the sounds they make, the need for monthly testing, and their importance
- To foster a community approach to fire safety by forging partnerships among students, families, educators, firefighters, and life safety educators

Program Components

- A two-page teacher's guide (pages 2-3)
- Three reproducible student activity sheets (pages 4-6)
- Simplified activity sheets for use when reading level is lower (pages 7-11)
- A one-page guide for safety team presenters
- A classroom wall poster
- A home fire safety storybook

Additional resources available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers

- Spanish translations of the activity sheets
- A digital whiteboard activity on smoke alarm safety
- A colorful storybook in PDF format to reinforce key messages
- Tips for playing the games referenced in this guide that get students up and moving

- A Sound Off mobile app for students and families

- Downloadable take-home handouts on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms

Common Core Standards

To learn how this program aligns with Common Core Standards for Math and Language Arts for grades 2 and 3, please visit ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers.

How to Use This Program

- Display the poster in your classroom and review the messages with students.
- Choose the set of activity sheets that is appropriate for your students' reading levels. Make copies for each student and follow the suggestions below to guide them through each activity.
- If possible, invite a member of your local fire department or home fire safety team to present the information to your class. If the fire service professional will be doing the activities with your students during the visit, download the "Fire Service Presenter's Guide" available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers and share it with them. The guide provides tips for using the activities with students.
- Please photocopy and share these materials with the teachers in your school to help provide the safety messages with other families in your community.

Activity 1

SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL



Begin this activity by reviewing the sounds a smoke alarm can make and what those sounds mean. Have students make the sounds, then play a Simon Says-style game in which they make the appropriate sound as you call out “Fire!” or “I need a new battery!” See the game play tips online.

Next, review the importance of testing smoke alarms every month. If possible, bring a smoke alarm to class and demonstrate pushing the test button. Ask students if their families test their smoke alarms every month. Then explain that they will be testing their family’s smoke alarms with a grown-up.

Remind students that they are now members of the Home Fire Safety Patrol. Define “patrol” as a group that watches over an area to make sure everything is safe. Explain that they will use the form on this activity sheet to patrol their homes with a grown-up, looking for smoke alarms and testing them to find out if they work. Review the form so that students understand how to answer each question. Have them name the levels in a home — basement, first floor, second floor, etc. — to be sure they understand this concept. Finally, point out where they and a parent or caregiver should sign the form to show that they have completed their home fire safety patrol.

The next day, compile the information that students have collected, and use it to reinforce math skills by having students create picture or bar graphs that compare how many smoke alarms work and don’t work, how many homes have smoke alarms on every level and in all bedrooms and sleeping areas, and how many need more smoke alarms.

Digital Whiteboard Activity

SMOKE ALARM SMARTS

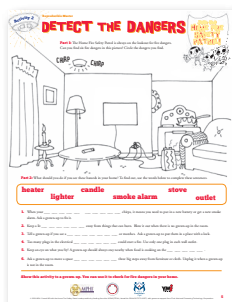


Use this interactive game to reinforce what students have learned about smoke alarms — the need to test them, where they should be located in a home, and the sounds they make. Be aware that

the loud sounds used in this game may not be appropriate for some students. If you do not have a digital whiteboard in your classroom, students can play the game on a school computer, or visit ymiclassroom.com/smoke-alarm-smarts to play at home.

Activity 2

DETECT THE DANGERS



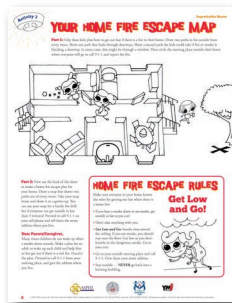
This activity alerts students to several common risk factors that may cause a home fire. Complete Part 1 of the activity as a class, calling on students to identify the six home fire dangers shown in the picture. Have them complete Part 2 individually by filling in the names of these six dangers to complete the sentences. Review the sentences as a class, then

encourage students to use the activity sheet to patrol their homes with a grown-up, looking for fire dangers. The next day, have students report on any dangers they found and how their family plans to make their home safer.

Answers: 1-smoke alarm; 2-candle; 3-lighter (Lighters and matches should be stored up high, in a locked cabinet or container, to help prevent a fire set by a child.); 4-outlet; 5-stove; 6-heater.

Activity 3

YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE MAP



This activity teaches students how to make a home fire escape map and best practices for escaping a home fire. Have students work in small groups to complete Part 1 by drawing two paths from each room, through the windows and doors, to the outside meeting place. Then provide time for students to draw escape plan maps for their

homes on the back of the sheet. Encourage them to take their maps home and go on patrol with a grown-up to make sure the plan works. Review the home fire escape rules, and if possible, have students practice getting low to avoid breathing smoke. Follow up by inviting students to report on what happened when their families practiced their home fire escape plans.

RESOURCES

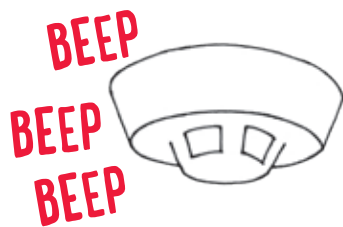
- **Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol**, ymiclassroom.com/sound-off
- **Center for National Prevention Initiatives at MPH**, mph.org/center/cnpi

SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

Join the
**HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL!**

Smoke alarms are important. They warn you when there is a fire.

Do you know your smoke alarm sounds?

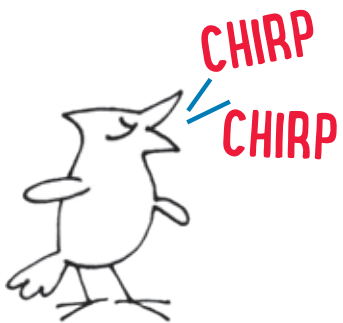


BEEP-BEEP-BEEP...

BEEP-BEEP-BEEP

That sound means there is a fire in your home.

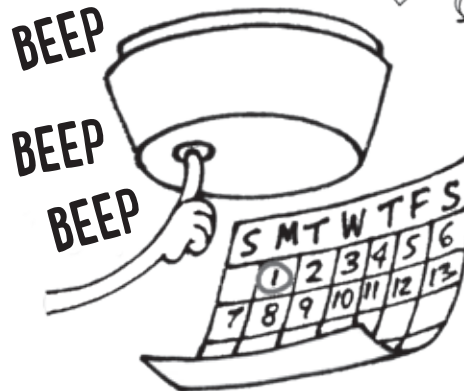
You need to get out fast!



Chirp...Chirp

Sometimes a smoke alarm makes a sound like a cricket or a chirping bird.

That means the battery is not working well, or the smoke alarm is getting old. You need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.



Test your smoke alarms every month to make sure they work.

Push the test button. If you hear BEEP-BEEP-BEEP, that means the smoke alarm is working. If you don't hear that sound, put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm. Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your old smoke alarms with new ones every 10 years.

Go on a fire safety patrol in your home.

Use this chart to test the smoke alarms in your home. Ask a grown-up to help. Circle Yes or No for each question. When you finish your patrol, write your names in the spaces provided. Then bring the chart back to class.

Do you have a smoke alarm on each level of your home?

Yes

No

Do you have a smoke alarm in or near every bedroom and sleeping area?

Yes

No

Do all of your smoke alarms work when you test them?

Yes

No

Student _____

Parent/Caregiver _____

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Your child is participating in a home fire safety program at school. Thank you for taking the time to reinforce these lessons by testing the smoke alarms in your home. Remember: Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your smoke alarms with new ones every 10 years.

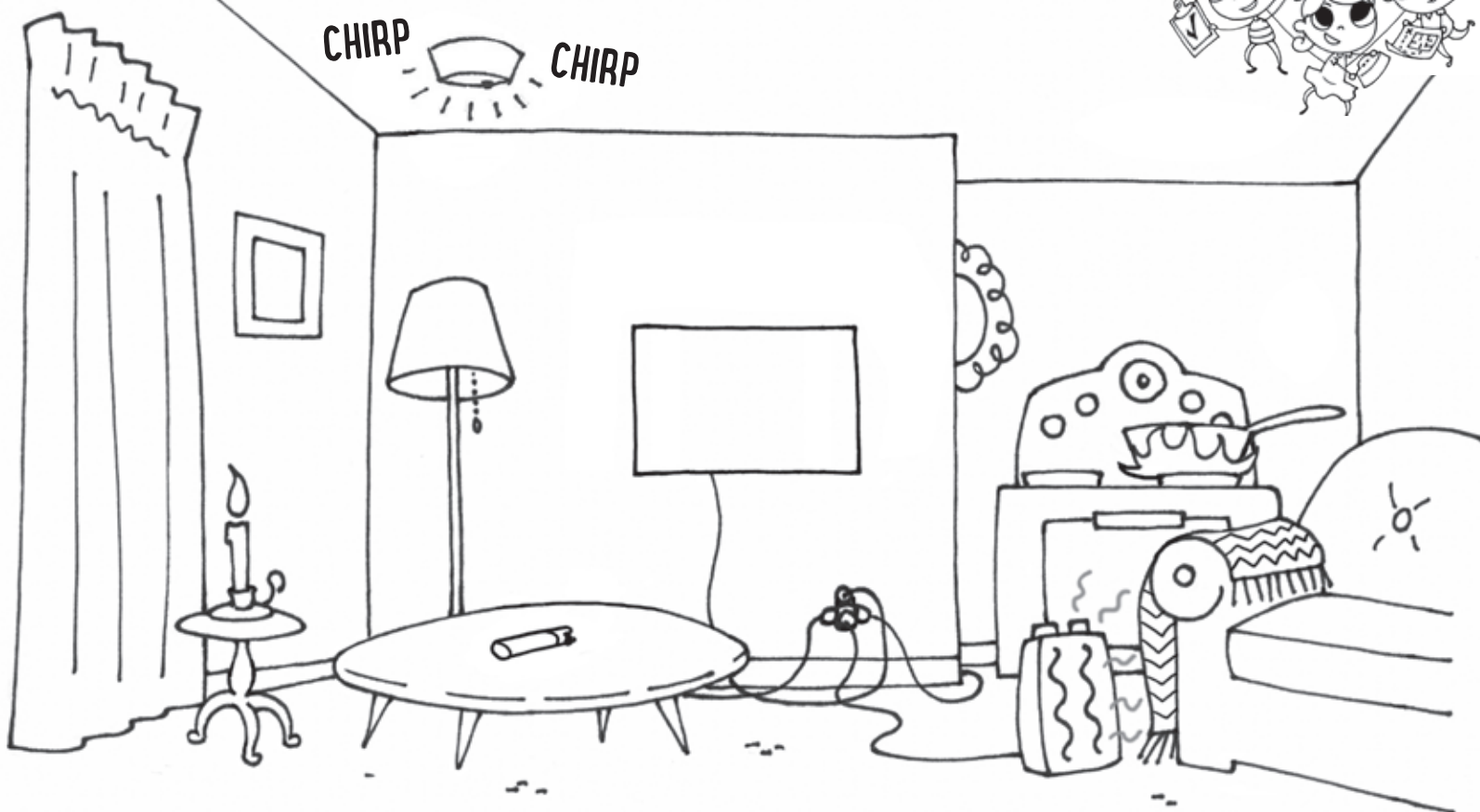


DETECT THE DANGERS

Join the
**HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL!**



Part 1: The Home Fire Safety Patrol is always on the lookout for fire dangers. Can you find six fire dangers in this picture? Circle the dangers you find.



Part 2: What should you do if you see these hazards in your home? To find out, use the words below to complete these sentences.

heater candle stove
lighter smoke alarm outlet

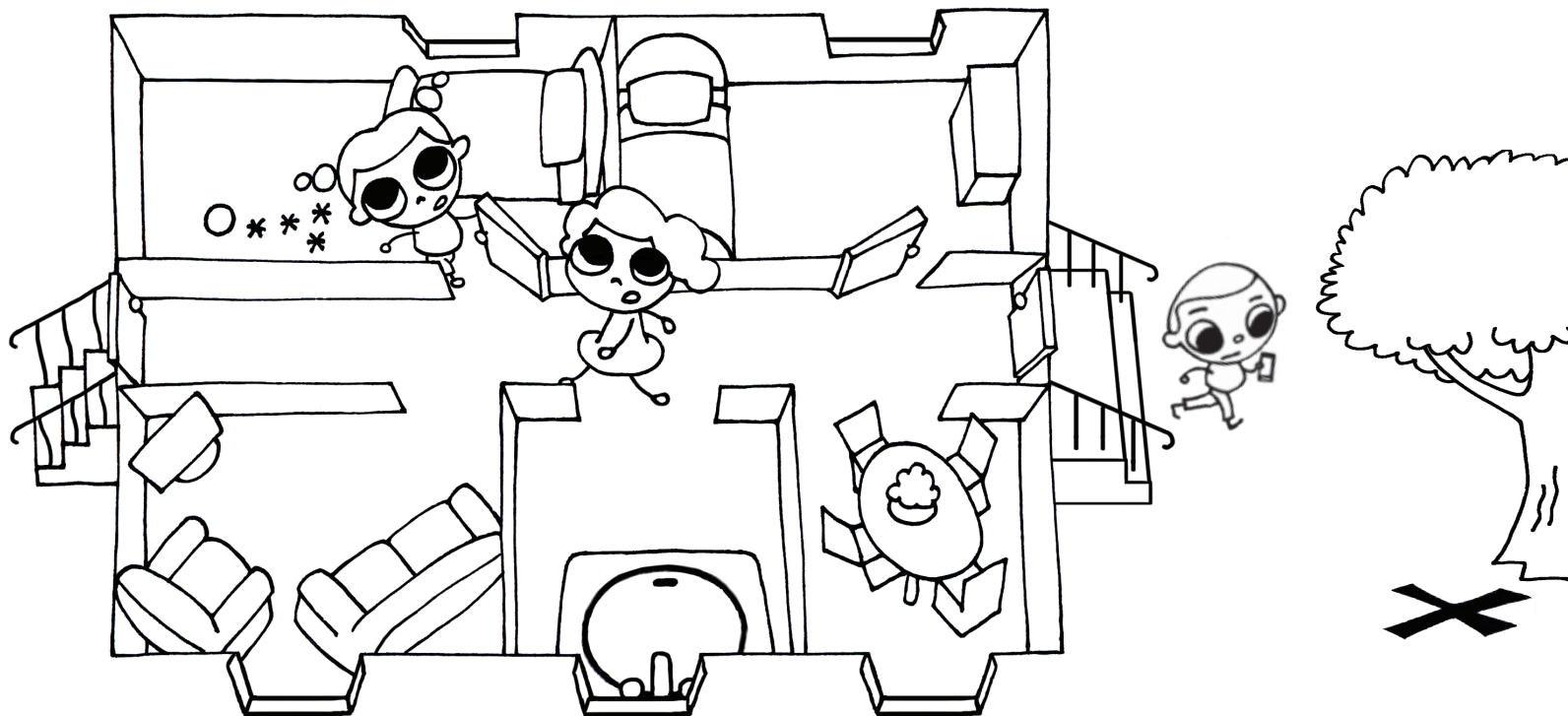
1. When your _____ chirps, it means you need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm. Ask a grown-up to fix it.
2. Keep a lit _____ away from things that can burn. Blow it out when there is no grown-up in the room.
3. Tell a grown-up if you see a _____ or matches. Ask a grown-up to put them in a place with a lock.
4. Too many plugs in the electrical _____ could start a fire. Use only one plug in each wall outlet.
5. Keep an eye on what you fry! A grown-up should always stay nearby when food is cooking on the _____.
6. Ask a grown-up to move a space _____ three big steps away from furniture or cloth. Unplug it when a grown-up is not in the room.

Show this activity to a grown-up. You can use it to check for fire dangers in your home.



YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE MAP

Part 1: Help these kids plan how to get out fast if there is a fire in their home. Draw two paths to the outside from every room. Show one path that leads through doorways. Show a second path the kids could take if fire or smoke is blocking a doorway. In some cases, this might be through a window. Then circle the meeting place outside their home where everyone will go to call 9-1-1 and report the fire.



Part 2: Now use the back of this sheet to make a home fire escape plan for your home. Draw a map that shows two paths out of every room. Take your map home and show it to a grown-up. You can use your map for a family fire drill. See if everyone can get outside in less than 3 minutes! Pretend to call 9-1-1 on your cell phone and tell them the street address where you live.

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

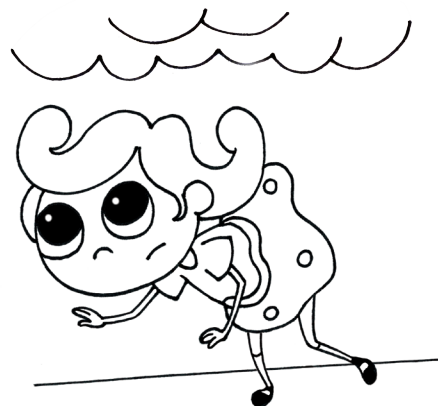
Many times children do not wake up when a smoke alarm sounds. Make a plan for an adult to wake up each child and help him or her get out if there is a real fire. Practice the plan. Pretend to call 9-1-1 from your meeting place, and give the address where you live.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE RULES

Make sure everyone in your home knows the rules for getting out fast when there is a home fire:

- If you hear a smoke alarm or see smoke, get outside as fast as you can!
- Don't take anything with you.
- **Get Low and Go:** Smoke rises toward the ceiling. If you see smoke, you should stay near the floor. Get low so you don't breathe in the dangerous smoke. Go to your exit.
- Go to your outside meeting place and call 9-1-1. Give them your street address.
- Stay outside — **NEVER** go back into a burning building.

Get Low and Go!



Sound Off!

Smoke alarms are important. They warn you when there is a fire.

Do you know your smoke alarm sounds?

**BEEP
BEEP BEEP**



BEEP-BEEP-BEEP...

BEEP-BEEP-BEEP

That sound means there is a fire in your home. You need to get out fast!

CHIRP CHIRP Sometimes a smoke alarm makes a sound like a cricket or a chirping bird. That means the battery is not working well or the smoke alarm is getting old. You need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.



**JOIN THE
HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL**



**TEST YOUR SMOKE
ALARMS EVERY
MONTH TO
MAKE SURE
THEY WORK.**



Push the test button. If you hear BEEP-BEEP-BEEP, that means the smoke alarm is working. If you don't hear that sound, put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.



Safety Patrol

Go on a fire safety patrol in your home.

Use this chart to test the smoke alarms in your home. Ask a grown-up to help. Circle Yes or No for each question. When you finish your patrol, write your names in the spaces provided. Then bring the chart back to class.

**JOIN THE
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Do you have a smoke alarm on each level of your home?

Yes

No

Do you have a smoke alarm in or near every bedroom and sleeping area?

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Do all of your smoke alarms work when you test them?

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No

Student _____ Parent/Caregiver _____

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Your child is taking part in a home fire safety program. Thank you for taking the time to reinforce these lessons by testing the smoke alarms in your home. Remember: Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.



Detect the Dangers

The Home Fire Safety Patrol is always on the lookout for fire dangers. Can you find six fire dangers in this picture?

Circle the dangers you find.

**JOIN THE
HOME FIRE
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PATROL**



Home Fire Escape Map

Help these kids plan how to get out fast if there is a fire in their home.

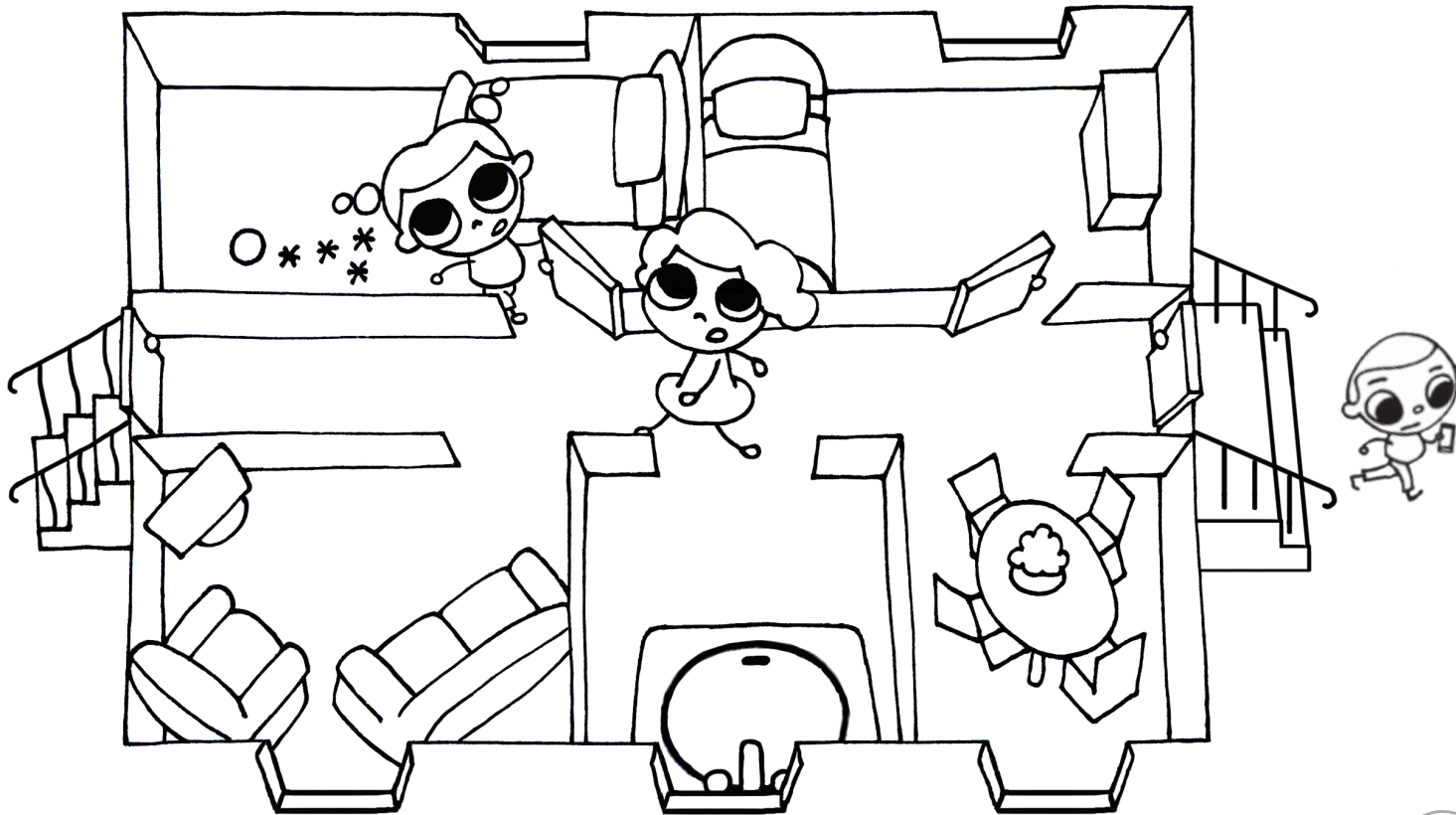
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fire or smoke is blocking a doorway.

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Reproducible Master

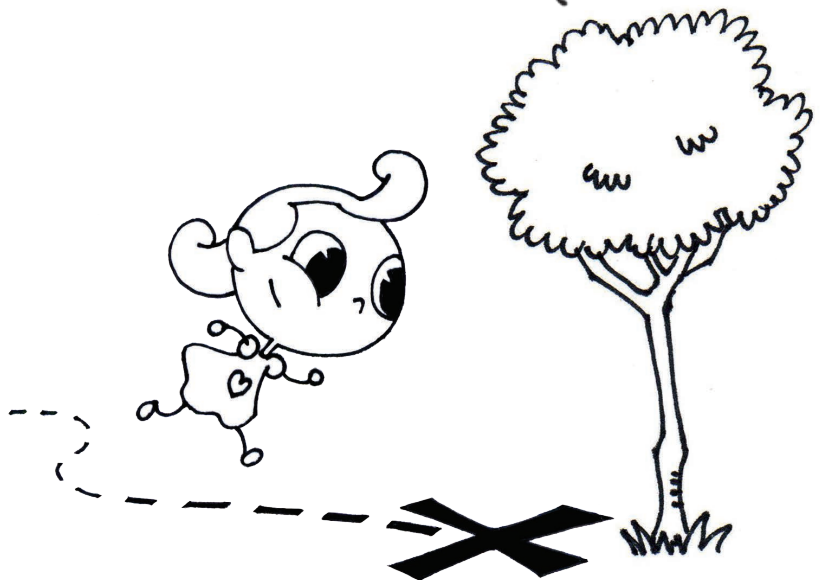
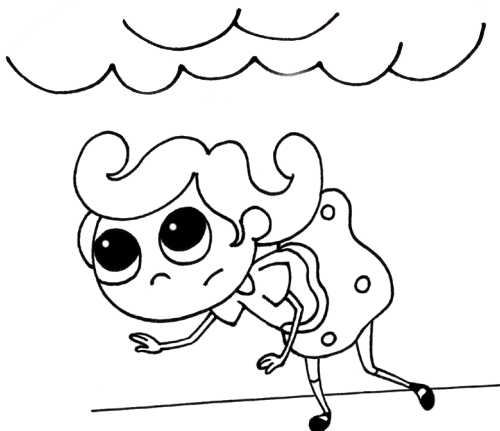
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- Go to your outside meeting place and call 9-1-1. Tell them the street address where you live.
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