

Family Fire Safety with The Hartford's Junior Fire Marshal® Program

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Your child has been learning about fire safety in class through materials provided by The Hartford's Junior Fire Marshal® program and the curriculum experts at Young Minds Inspired. They have completed a classroom activity that focuses on how to create an escape plan, and watched a training video that explains other important aspects of fire safety, including these four key topics:

1. Matches and Lighters Are for Grown-Ups

Fire prevention starts with fire safety basics. Teach your children that matches and lighters start fires. If they see matches or lighters, they should not touch them. They should tell a grown-up about it.

Fire Safety Tip! Place matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

2. Smoke Alarms Are Important

There should be a working smoke alarm on every level of your home (including the basement) and inside every room where people sleep. All family members should know what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear one. Test your alarms with your child and review what to do if the alarm goes off.

Fire Safety Tip! Follow your smoke alarm manufacturer's instructions for changing the batteries and replacing alarms. If batteries are to be changed twice a year, change the batteries when the clocks change in the fall and spring. And remember: Test your smoke alarms once a month. If you do not hear the alarm sound, install new batteries or replace the alarm.

3. Create and Practice Your Escape Plan

Everyone in your home should help create an escape plan and practice it regularly. Walk through your home together, inspect possible exits, and identify two ways out of every room. Remember to go low, go under smoke, and get out fast if there is a fire!

Fire Safety Tip! Look at the activity sheet your child brought home to help you create your own escape plan. Practice your plan at least twice a year — once in the fall, and once in the spring.

4. Establish Your Outside Meeting Place

Choose an outside meeting place that is a permanent location a safe distance from your home — such as a streetlight, tree, or neighbor's home. Mark the location on your escape plan map. Everyone should go to the meeting place in an emergency. Teach your child never to go back inside a home that's on fire.

Fire Safety Tip! Review your meeting place from time to time to make sure it's still suitable.

Additional Safety Tips

Fire safety is something that should be reviewed continuously throughout the year, and it's very important that the whole family is involved. For more information to help keep your family safe, visit The Hartford at www.juniorfiremarshal.com/for-parents to download the Family Fire Safety Guide and review the Fire Safety Checklist.



For more than 70 years, The Hartford has been dedicated to teaching children how to prevent fires and what to do if they face one. More than 111 million kids have been deputized through The Hartford's Junior Fire Marshal® program.

Learn more at www.juniorfiremarshal.com/for-parents