Our Philosophy

“Children do not learn by repeating catchy phrases about fire safety”

Children can often repeat phrases like stop, drop and roll, but don’t really know what they mean. Children learn through repetition - once is not enough for any fire safety message. Children learn best:

- When freely exploring and becoming an active part of their learning
- When the information is meaningful to them
- When they are allowed to choose where they want to play, how long they want to play there, and with whom they want to play
- When they discover it themselves. Not when someone “teaches” or “tells” them the information
- When they are given time to explore the materials at their own pace through creative expression

REMEMBER! A scared child cannot listen and cannot learn. DO NOT scare children!

A New Curriculum!

- NEW comprehensive curriculum
- 15 days of instruction
- Based on four years of research and development and more than 100 classroom implementations
- Applies principals of child development and early childhood education best practices to fire safety
- Designed for children 4 and 5 years old, but easily adapted for 1st and 2nd graders
- Links 8 fire safety messages to developmentally appropriate methods and materials
- Equips the classroom for teaching and learning with recommended materials for centers including dramatic play, manipulatives, the library and more
- Helps teachers and firefighters know what NOT to do
- Meets state learning objectives
- Take home Fire Safety pages for families
- Instructions for firefighters when visiting an early childhood classroom and hosting a fire station tour

Developed by
The Center for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning
College of Human Environmental Sciences

In partnership with
Fire Protection Publications
College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology
Oklahoma State University

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More Information for Teachers and Firefighters

One new approach in this curriculum is modifying the language of the fire safety messages, making them more comprehensible for young children.

The curriculum also uses a specific sequence for teaching the messages based on how children learn and make sense of new concepts.

The recommended messages listed in sequence are:

1. Recognize a firefighter as a helper and friend.
2. Stay away from hot things that hurt.
3. Cool a burn with cool water.
4. Tell a grown-up if you find matches or lighters. Never touch!
5. Stop, drop, and roll if your clothes catch on fire.
6. Know the sound and purpose of a smoke alarm.
7. Practice a fire drill using your escape map.
8. Crawl low under smoke.

The printed curriculum is Item 37502   The curriculum on CD is Item 37516
Download the curriculum at www.ifsta.org
Or call 800-654-4055 to order

Items are at NO COST but shipping charges will apply based on weight and destination