

The Great Escape

Overview

Task Context

Students will learn about the importance of home fire escape plans.

Description

Students will select safe meeting places with their families and draw fire escape plans for their homes. Students will discuss hazards that block escape routes and how to correct them.

Expectations

Kindergarten	Grade 1
Ke8 • follow simple directions and respond appropriately to familiar questions;	1p3 • recognize safety risks and safe practices;
Ke11 • use language to connect new experiences with what they already know;	1p11 • outline the potential safety risks in the home, school, and community (e.g., from fire or toys);
Kp19 • identify safe and unsafe situations, materials, and equipment (e.g., dangers associated with handling construction tools, using scissors, playing on ladders);	1e45 • apply some of the basic rules of participating in a conversation and working with others;
	1e55 • allow others to speak, and wait their turn in conversations or class discussions;

Groupings

Students Working As Whole Class

Students Working Individually

Teaching / Learning Strategies

Discussion

Demonstration

Notes to Teacher

The following materials will be needed:

- battery-operated smoke alarm
- blank floor plan grid (2 or 3 blank floor plan grids per student)
- a copy of the Home Connection instructions (letter to parents) for each student

Teaching / Learning

Part One

1. Teachers and students discuss how quickly fires can spread and why everyone should know in advance what to do if they hear a smoke alarm.
2. Teachers explain to students that they will be practising how they should get out of a building in case of a fire.
3. With the students in a group, teachers sound the smoke alarm. Teachers ask the students what that sound means they should do.
4. Teachers and students discuss proper procedures for leaving the building and select a meeting place outside.
5. Teachers sound the alarm and together with students, walk quickly outside to the meeting place.
6. Teachers use the same procedure to practise exiting from other areas of the school.

Note to Teachers: Steps 5 and 6 should be practised many times. Initially, teachers should use the door that leads to the outside quickest. Then, teachers should vary routes as children have more practice.

Teachers should use alternate drills where they tell students there is smoke in a certain area. Students take the second way out away from the smoke. If told there is smoke everywhere, students should crawl low under smoke to get out.

Home Connection

A sample letter is provided asking parents to work with their children to establish home escape plans as per instructions provided.

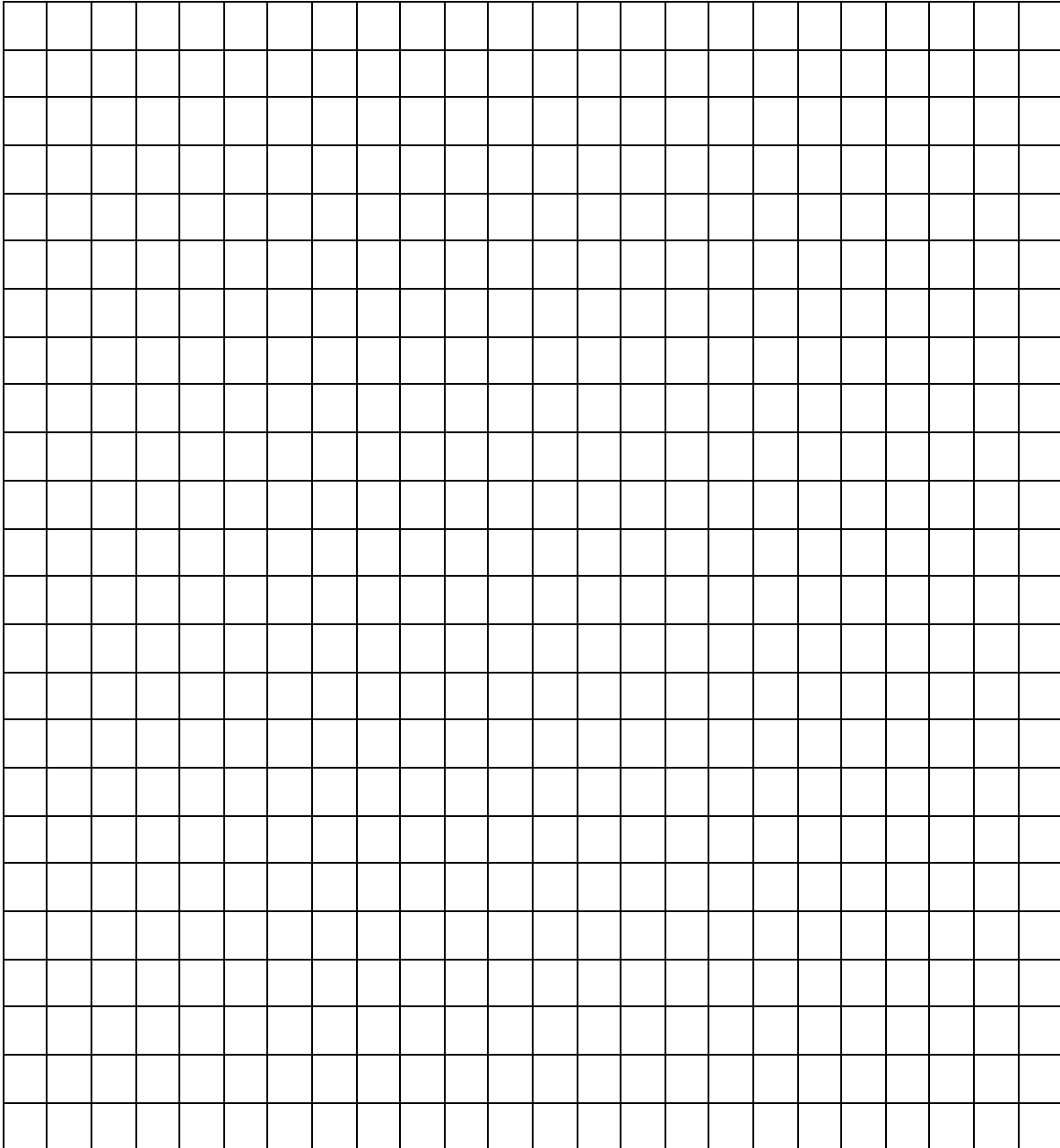
Part Two

1. Teachers and students discuss the students' fire escape plans.
Sample discussion questions:
 - Where did your family decide would be the best outdoor meeting place?
 - Why did you select this location?
2. Teachers and students discuss the importance of practising their home escape plans just as they practise fire drills at school.
3. Students draw a picture of their family meeting place.

Resources

- blank floor plan grid
- instruction sheet for homework with parents

Floor Plan Grid



Practise Your Escape Plan!!

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

Would your family know how to escape if there was a fire in your home? A home escape plan is a plan to get out of your home safely in case of a fire. Every household member should know two ways out of each room in case one is blocked by fire or smoke.

Here are some easy steps to follow in helping your child with this plan.

1. Get your family together and use the blank Floor Plan Grid provided with this letter to draw a simple floor plan of each level of your home.
2. Plan two ways out of each room. The first way out should be a door and the second way out could be another door or window.
3. Make sure doors and windows can be opened easily. In a two-story building, plan your escape through a window onto a roof or porch. If you must use an escape ladder, be sure everyone knows where it is and how to use it.
4. Choose a special meeting place outside the home and mark it on the floor plan. A meeting place should be something that stays in the same place, such as a tree, telephone pole, or a neighbour's house.
5. Make sure everyone understands the planned escape routes.
6. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Test them weekly and change the batteries once a year.
7. Have a home fire drill at least twice a year. Have family member practise using their second way out as well as their primary one.
8. If you live in an apartment, use the stairs. **Never use an elevator** in case of a fire. The elevator could take you to the floor where the fire is burning. If fire blocks your exit, close the apartment door and cover all cracks where smoke could enter. Telephone the fire department even if firefighters are already at the building. Tell them where you are. Wave a towel or sheet at the window to help the firefighters find you.
9. If you live in a mobile home, follow the same steps. Keep all exits clear and install smoke alarms on interior walls.

Thank you for assisting your child with this home assignment. We need to work together to keep our children safe!

Sincerely,