

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Overview

Task Context

Students need to be able to identify the importance of smoke alarms in the home. They need to recognize the sound of a smoke alarm and know what to do if they hear it. They should be able to identify what to do to keep smoke alarms in working order.

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 Individually

Students Working As Whole Class

Notes to Teacher

The following materials will be needed:

- an approved smoke alarm and battery
- small paper plates
- glue
- pretend battery made from construction paper
- red ½ stickers for test buttons
- small black pompom for nose

Teaching / Learning

Discussion

1. Teachers and students discuss what smoke alarms are and why they should have them in their homes.
2. Teachers demonstrate what a smoke alarm looks like and the sound it makes when it detects smoke.
3. Teachers lead a class discussion about what students should do if they hear a smoke alarm sound.
4. Teachers and students discuss where smoke alarms should be installed.
5. Teachers lead a class discussion of smoke alarm batteries (i.e., how often they should be tested, how often they should be changed).
6. Teachers show students where the batteries go in a smoke alarm. Press the test button to demonstrate it is working properly. Remind students that alarms need to be kept clean from dust. This can be done by running a vacuum cleaner attachment over and around them.
7. Teachers allow students to touch the smoke alarm and push the test button.
8. Teachers conclude the lesson by telling students they can keep their homes safe from fire by helping grown-ups remember to:
 - put smoke alarms in the home, especially near bedrooms
 - test smoke alarms monthly to make sure they are working
 - replace with brand new batteries at least once a year
 - keep smoke alarms clean from dust

Making "Sniffy", the Smoke Alarm

1. Teachers provide students with two small paper plates.
2. Students glue eyes and a mouth to the back of one plate.
3. Students glue the pompom nose to the front of one plate.
4. Students glue the battery near the nose of the smoke alarm.
5. Students glue the paper plates together. Now Sniffy is finished.
6. Students put the test button sticker on the front of the smoke alarm
7. Students make a beep-beep sound when they press the test button.

Song: Fire Safety Hop

1. Teachers teach students the song about smoke alarms.

Note: A copy of "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives" could be sent home to parents/caregivers when students take their pretend smoke alarms home.

Resources

Teacher Information Sheet: Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Song: Fire Safety Hop

Teacher Information Sheet

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

All seasoned firefighters have heard the explanation, “The smoke alarm woke me up. I was able to wake the rest of the family and get them out just ahead of the fire.” A smoke alarm is the best early fire detection device available to the average homeowner. Here are some answers to questions commonly asked about smoke alarms.

What kind of smoke alarm should I buy?

Both battery-powered and house current-powered smoke alarms do a good job. Make sure the one you choose has been tested by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory.

How many smoke alarms do I need?

There should be at least one alarm on every floor of the house except attics, unless the attic space is used for sleeping. Additional alarms will increase the chance of early detection.

Where should I place a alarm?

Smoke alarms should be placed near bedrooms either on the ceiling—at least 15 to 30 centimetres away from the wall—or on the wall, 15 to 30 centimetres down from the ceiling. This allows the alarm to sense the smoke as it approaches the sleeping area.

What maintenance do smoke alarms require?

Test the alarm at least monthly by pushing the test button. Once a year vacuum the dust from alarm air vents. Battery operated alarms should have the battery replaced each year or when the low-battery warning sounds. Select a memorable date such as a holiday or family birthday to remind you to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms at that time.

Is there anything else I should do to make my home or cottage safer?

Yes! Hold practice drills with your whole family so they will know what to do if your alarm ever alerts you of an emergency.

Install a carbon monoxide alarm as well.

Keep a fire extinguisher handy.

Remember these safety tips:

- Install a smoke alarm on each level of your home.
- Never remove a good battery or otherwise disable the alarms.
- Know what to do after an alarm sounds off.
- Plan a home escape route in the event of a fire.

Fire Safety Hop

(to the tune of: The Bunny Hop)

Fire Safety is important.
It can save my life.
This song will help me remember
What to do! (everyone hop)

If I am sleeping
And the smoke alarm wails
Remember my escape plan
Crawl! Crawl! Crawl! (everyone crawl)

Smoke alarms are needed.
One on every floor.
Make sure they are working
Beep! Beep! Beep! (everyone hop)

I need to tell my parents
The batteries should be new.
So when they change their clocks
Change batteries, too!

Now I know the drill
The things that I must do.
I know fire safety
You can too! (everyone point)