

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

Grade 2	Grade 3
2e47 • communicate messages, and follow instructions and directions;	3e50 • communicate messages, and follow and give directions for a variety of activities and events;
2e60 • participate in group discussions, demonstrating a sense of when to speak, when to listen, and how much to say;	3e51 • listen to discussions and ask questions to clarify meaning;
2p3 • outline safety rules and safe practices;	3e63 • contribute ideas appropriate to the topic in group discussion and listen to the ideas of others;
2p11 • identify safety rules to be followed in the home, school, and community (e.g., electrical safety, schoolyard rules, bus safety);	3p3 • list safety procedures and practices in the home, school, and community 3p10 • explain relevant safety procedures (e.g., fire drills, railway-crossing and crosswalk procedures);

Groupings

Students Working As Whole Class

Students Work in Small Groups

Students Working Individually

Teaching / Learning Strategies

Discussion

Map making

Notes to Teacher

The following materials will be needed:

- pencils
- blank floor plan grid (3 or 4 copies per group of 3 or 4 students)
- 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. Using the classroom as an example, teachers and students discuss possible escape paths that include the use of windows as well as doors. Be sure to stress the importance of having more than one escape path and of choosing a central meeting place outside.
3. Teachers divide the class into groups of 3 or 4, giving each group 3 or 4 copies of the Floor Plan Grid.
4. Groups of students draw escape plans for the classroom, gym, library and/or other areas within the school. Each plan should show at least two escape paths.
5. Teachers and students discuss escape plans and post sample plans near the appropriate school areas.

Part Two

1. Teachers provide each student with 2 or 3 Floor Plan Grids to use for their homework.
2. Students work with their families to select an outdoor meeting place and to map out escape paths for each room in their house or apartment. A separate sheet should be used for each floor of the house or apartment.

Part Three

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?
 - Did you have any problems finding two escape routes from any room in your home?
 - Were there any hazards, such as furniture, that blocked your escape routes? If so, can you rearrange the room so that you have clear escape routes?
2. Teachers and students discuss the importance of practising their home escape plans just as they practise fire drills at school.

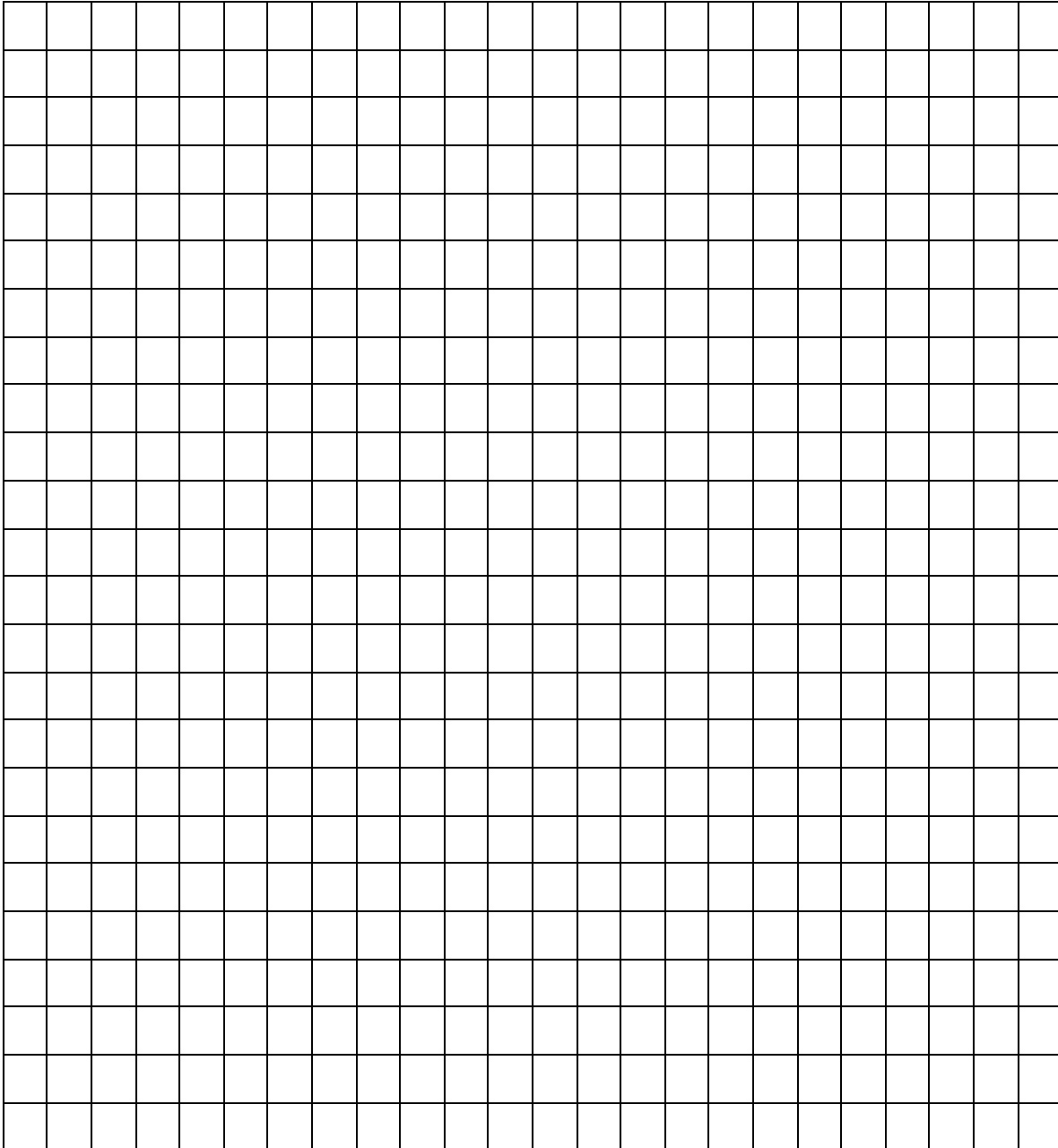
Home Connection

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

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,