



Fire Prevention and Safety K-2

Fire Preparedness

LESSON PLAN 5

Fire Safety at Home

Young children feel safer if they know there will be a warning if fire breaks out at home, and they understand what to do.

Key Terms and Concepts

battery	fire safety	smoke alarm
evacuation	outdoor meeting place	testing
evacuation drill	plan	“two ways out”
exit	procedures	

Purposes

To teach the students the importance of having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in their homes

To help the students apply fire safety rules and escape plans at home

Objectives

The students will—

- Follow *Smoke Alarm Checklist* to identify the need for and maintenance of smoke alarms.
- Identify where smoke alarms should be placed in their homes with *Smoke Alarms at Home*. (Home Connection)
- Start a home chart to remind them to test and replace batteries with the help of *Smoke Alarm Reminder*. (Home Connection)
- Identify situations and processes for making decisions.
- Use *Build-a-Room* to construct and interpret escape maps at school as Safety Signs for students and visitors.
- Construct and post Safety Signs and conduct evacuation drills with their families, following the escape routes designated on their maps. (Home Connection)
- Use fire safety vocabulary to write letters to inform their families of the need to post and use Safety Signs. (Linking Across the Curriculum)
- Estimate, count and calculate to determine numbers connected with their escape routes. (Linking Across the Curriculum)
- Identify evacuation maps in public places to create a class list of emergency exits for unfamiliar places in the community. (Linking Across the Curriculum)



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LESSON PLAN 5

Fire Safety at Home

Activities

“Smoke Alarms”

“Safety Signs”

“Plan Your Escape”

TEACHING NOTE Introduce or reinforce the use and maintenance of smoke alarms with the Fire Prevention and Safety DVD, Grades K-2, Scene 4: “Smoke Alarms.”



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LESSON PLAN 5

Fire Safety at Home

Materials

- Battery-operated smoke alarms (if possible, 1 for each small group)
- *Smoke Alarm Checklist*, 1 copy per student
- *Smoke Alarms at Home*, 1 copy per student (Home Connection)
- *Smoke Alarm Reminder*, 1 copy per student (Home Connection)



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"Smoke Alarms"

SET UP 10 minutes CONDUCT 30 minutes

Science: Physical Science and Health; Social Studies: Rules and Family

Before class, find smoke alarms that operate on batteries. Check to make sure that the batteries are fresh and that the alarm test buttons work properly.

Talk with the students about what they have learned about fire alarms at school. What kind of alarms do they have at home?

For younger students: Distribute *Smoke Alarm Checklist*. Show the students the alarm, and using the checklist, demonstrate how it works.

Make sure to—

- Explain that smoke alarms make different sounds and that they should ask at home to hear how their smoke alarms sound.
- Show the students where the battery fits into the alarm.
- Emphasize that they can take responsibility to remind the adults at home to change the batteries once a year.
- Describe and use the test button and emphasize that they can take responsibility to remind and/or help the adults at home to test alarms once a month.
- Tell the students that adults at home need to also keep alarms clear of dust and cobwebs by wiping or vacuuming them monthly.

For older students: Distribute *Smoke Alarm Checklist* to small groups of students. Have them work in their groups to discover facts about smoke alarms on their own. Ask them to—

- Find and use the test button.
- Find, remove and replace the battery

As a whole group, discuss battery replacement and smoke alarm testing and cleaning. Why is each activity important?



Wrap-Up

Ask the students to tell where smoke alarms are located in their homes.



Why do they think the alarms are located there? (Close to the kitchen where many fires start; right outside the bedrooms so people can hear them if they're in bed; in the basement because a fire might not be noticed there.) How can they help their families maintain their smoke alarms? (Keep a calendar to know when to test batteries; change the batteries on their birthday each year; and to check the smoke alarm for cobwebs or dust.)



Fire Prevention and Safety K-2

LESSON PLAN 5

Fire Safety at Home



Home Connection

Distribute *Smoke Alarms at Home* and *Smoke Alarm Reminder* to guide the students and their families to properly place, test and maintain working smoke alarms for home fire safety. Setting up the Smoke Alarm Reminder chart, or using it as a template is an excellent way to help families organize and plan to take care of smoke alarms.

TEACHING NOTE Smoke Alarm Assistance is a service provided in many communities by the local chapter of the American Red Cross and the fire department to ensure that every family has working smoke alarms. Contact your local fire department and the local chapter of the American Red Cross to find out whether they provide this assistance.



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LESSON PLAN 5

Fire Safety at Home

Materials

Build-a-Room, 1 copy per student



"Safety Signs"

SET UP 5 minutes CONDUCT 25 minutes

Mathematics: Measurement and Scale; Social Studies: Mapping and Community

Talk to your students about the necessity of knowing two ways out of each room at school, at home or anywhere else they spend time.

Distribute *Build-a-Room* to the students so they can plan exits from the classroom.

With younger students, help the class use the grid to illustrate the shape of the classroom. Is it a rectangle? Is it a square? Are there niches that cut into the walls, partitions or short walls that protrude into the space? Where are the windows? Where are the doors?

With older students, guide small groups to use the grid to draw the classroom to scale. For example, each square might represent one foot. Make sure the students pay attention to the shape of the room and illustrate the placement of the doors and windows as they measure.

As a class, draw in shapes to represent furniture. For example, draw small rectangles to represent student desks or larger rectangles to represent tables.



Wrap-Up

Have the students place an "X" where they sit.



Now, have them draw red arrows from their desks to show the quickest ways for them to get to each exit in case of emergency. Older students can count the squares to measure and find the shortest routes. Talk with the students about clear paths in the classroom and the reason for keeping them clear.

Have the students place these classroom Safety Signs at their desks so that anyone visiting the classroom knows how to stay safe.

Extension: Use this same activity to create Safety Signs in common areas of the school—different areas within the cafeteria, gym or media center.



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LESSON PLAN 5

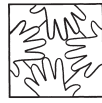
Fire Safety at Home

Materials

- *Build-a-Room*, several copies per student
- Construction paper
- Glue



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"Plan Your Escape"

SET UP 5 minutes CONDUCT two 20-minute sessions

Mathematics: Measurement and Scale; Social Studies: Mapping and Community

Review with the students the rules for an evacuation drill at school: When the fire alarm rings—

- Stop what you are doing.
- Listen for directions if an adult is present.
- Follow the escape route.
- Go to the assigned meeting place outside the building.

Tell the students that they need an escape plan for home just as they need an escape plan in case of fire at school.

Send the students home with several copies of *Build-a-Room*. Have them work with their families, using the same process they used in the classroom, to create several Safety Signs to post in rooms in their homes—in the bedroom, kitchen, playroom, basement, etc. Let students know that they also need to practice their escape routes in a series of home evacuation drills.



Wrap-Up

Tell the students to bring in their completed escape grids from home. Assist them in mounting the grids on construction paper and adding information around the grids, such as:

- Once out, stay out.
- Crawl low under smoke.
- Make sure windows open easily.
- Go to a designated outdoor meeting area.



Ask the students to describe the two ways outside from different rooms in their homes and to share the results of their home evacuation drills. Do they think they can improve their time? How?

Have them take the signs home to post in appropriate rooms.



Home Connection

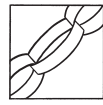
Talk with the students about where they have posted their Safety Signs at home, and who might see these signs. Now that they are making their homes safe for visitors, ask them how they might be safer when they visit others or when they go to theaters, community or recreation centers, restaurants or hotels. (Answers will vary, but may include—When visiting in someone's home, always ask about the fire safety plans. When entering a public building, check for marked exits. Always read the fire escape map posted on doors and walls.)



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Linking Across the Curriculum

Language Arts: Vocabulary and Writing

This is an excellent opportunity to have older students practice letter-writing skills and younger students practice printing.



First, work together to list the terms that are important for fire safety at home: smoke alarms, evacuation, plan, drill, outdoor meeting place and exit.

As a class or as individuals, have the students compose a letter to families to inform them about ways to use the Safety Signs. Make sure the letters include information about—

- Why it is important for everyone to know the two ways to get out of each room.
- How families can increase fire safety by making sure that visitors see and understand the Safety Signs.

Mathematics: Estimation, Counting and Calculation

- Have the students estimate the number of doors and windows they have in their homes. As they complete their Safety Signs, tell them to count to find out how accurate the estimates were.
- Have the students find and share as much math as possible from the home escape plans. For example:
 - How many doors are there between their bedrooms and the two exits of their homes?
 - How long did the first at-home evacuation drill take? How long did the last one take? What is the difference?
 - What is the estimated distance from each exit to the outside meeting place? What is the actual distance?
 - If a student has an escape ladder, and each rung is 1 foot from the next, how many rungs would he or she need to reach the ground from the bedroom window?

Social Studies: Community; Science: Health

Help the students see that government regulations require exit signs and maps in public places. As the students go through the community, have them identify these emergency signs in restaurants, movie theaters, shopping malls, etc. Work as a class to create a list of places that post evacuation maps. Continue adding to this list to help the students begin to look for emergency exits whenever they go to unfamiliar places.



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Smoke Alarm Checklist

Page 1 of 1

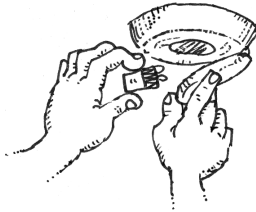
Name _____

Learn about smoke alarms to help stay safe if a fire occurs at your home.



Smoke alarms make different sounds.

Know how your home smoke alarms sound.



Most alarms use a battery.

Change it at least once a year.



The "test button" shows that your battery and the circuits in your alarm work.

Test your smoke alarms once a month.



Dust and cobwebs can make a smoke alarm stop working.

Clean smoke alarms regularly.





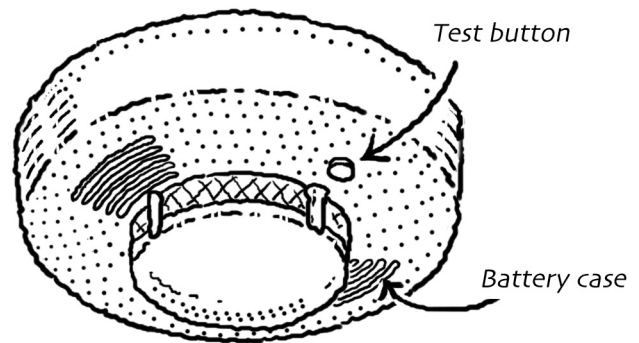
Smoke Alarms at Home

Page 1 of 1

Name _____

Smoke alarms save lives by warning you of a fire. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe from fire.

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each sleeping area.
- Install a smoke alarm right outside the kitchen.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries at least once a year.



Note: Some people find it easy to remember to replace batteries on a certain anniversary or birthday or on a specific date, such as October 1.

- Vacuum cobwebs and dust from smoke alarms monthly.
- Smoke alarms become less sensitive over time. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

Where are the smoke alarms in your home?



