



SEATTLE FIRE
DEPARTMENT
PREVENTION
DIVISION

SMART KIDS! SAFE KIDS!

FIRE SAFETY FUN

SPRING 2005



SPRING INTO FIRE SAFETY

Spring is a good time of year to highlight fire safety issues with your preschoolers.

MATCH AND LIGHTER SAFETY

The statistics are frightening. It is estimated that each year 700 children under the age of five die in home fires in the U.S. This age group has twice the risk of dying in a fire than the rest of the population. Children misusing matches, lighters and other fire sources significantly contribute to this number. It is estimated that children start tens of thousands of fires yearly. These fires result in about 400 deaths and nearly 3000 injuries each year. The preschool children themselves are most often the victims of these fires.

The Seattle Fire Department takes this information very seriously and is committed to improving the safety of our youngest residents. To accomplish our goal of conveying age appropriate fire safety messages to preschool children, the Seattle Fire Department works with preschools, daycares and parent groups to provide fire safety messages. There are three main things caregivers can do to prevent fires started by children.

- 1. Constant supervision.** This is tough to do, especially when there are several fast moving preschoolers in your care. However, a lapse in appropriate adult supervision is the common thread in fires started by children.
- 2. Restrict access to matches, lighters and other ignition sources.** Just telling a child not to touch these items is not enough. They simply should be removed from the child's environment. Would you leave a sharp knife or a dangerous tool out where a young child could reach it? Matches and lighters should be viewed in the same light.
- 3. Demonstrate fire safety in front of the children.** If you use matches and lighters in front of a preschooler, do so in a the manner they were intended to be used. Tell the child that they are tools for grown-ups only, not toys for them to play with.

May 5, 2005
3 year old finds lighter, starts self on fire

May 3, 2005
Child playing with lighter blamed for apartment fire

May 10, 2005
5 year old with lighter starts apartment fire \$300,000 damage, 26 displaced

PRESCHOOL
PROGRAM
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LESSON PLAN

MATCH AND LIGHTER SAFETY



MATERIALS

- Play Safe! Be Safe! Video
- Book *I Am Fire* by Jean Marzollo
- PS! BS! Story Cards - Lesson Four
- Scissors (for teacher)
- Coloring crayons or pens
- Glue and double-backed tape

PURPOSE

- To learn the difference between adult tools and children's toys.
- To understand that children should tell an adult whenever they find matches or a lighter.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to identify tools for adults and toys for children
- Students will know that they should not touch tools for adults
- Students will demonstrate what to do if they find a lighter or matches (1. Keep Away!, 2. Tell an adult right away)

PROCEDURE

Introduction – Show the *Safe for Play! Keep Away!* segment of the Play Safe! Be Safe! video. Then use the Play Safe! Be Safe! story cards for Lesson Four to involve the children in a discussion about the pictures on the story cards.

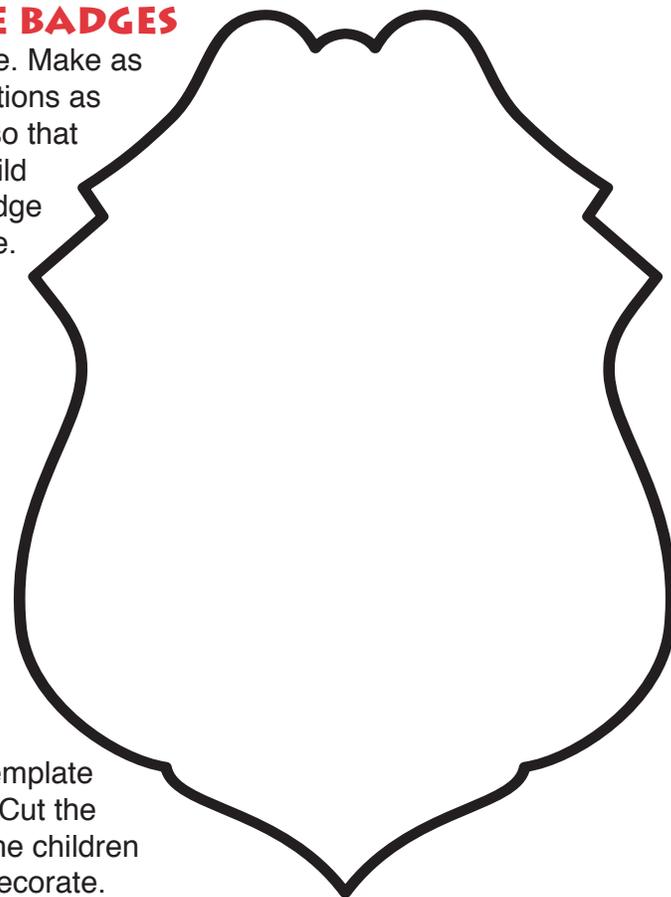
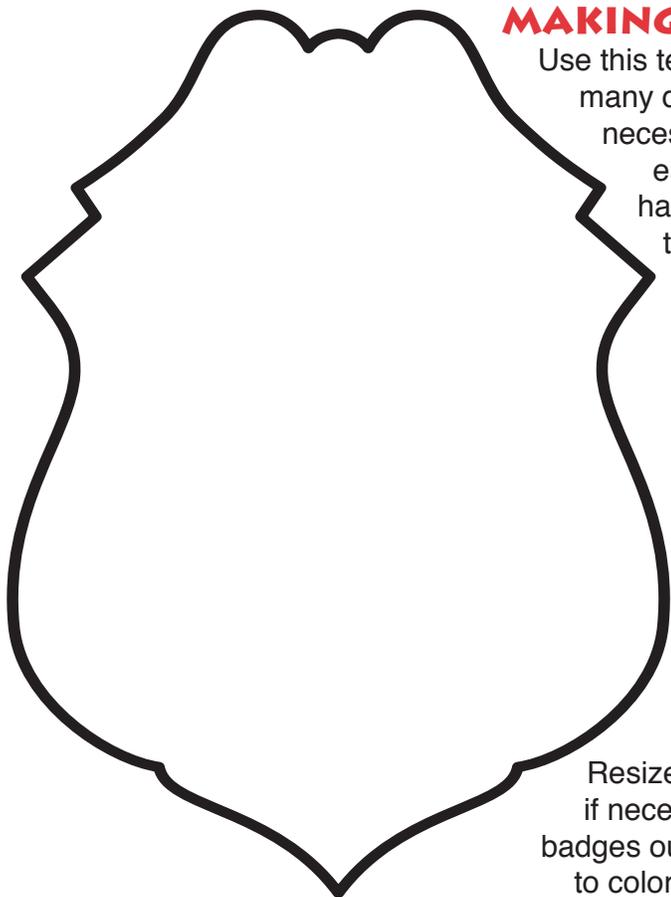
Communication – Ask the children to talk about their favorite toys. Then talk about tools that adults (like their Mom or Dad) use to get jobs done. Make sure the children understand the difference between toys for children and tools for adults.

Auditory/Reading – Read the book *I Am Fire* by Jean Marzollo or other preschool-age books that address safety around matches and lighters.

Hands-on/Kinesthetic – As the conclusion to the lesson, make Fire Marshal Badges with the children to reinforce the safety message.

MAKING THE BADGES

Use this template. Make as many duplications as necessary so that each child has a badge to make.



Resize the template if necessary. Cut the badges out for the children to color and decorate.

**FUN
FIELD TRIP**

**THE SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT & THE KING COUNTY
FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ASSOCIATION INVITE YOU TO**



FIRE DEPARTMENT DAY AT THE **BOEING MUSEUM OF FLIGHT**

\$6 BICYCLE HELMETS FITTED TO YOUR CHILD
THE BOEING CLOWNS
FIRE ENGINES
LADDER TRUCKS
RESCUE VEHICLES

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

This event is free and open to everyone.

The Museum of Flight will be open and normal admission fees will apply. Located in Seattle at 9404 E. Marginal Way S.

Visit our website at
WWW.SEATTLE.GOV/FIRE

The Seattle Fire Department website provides a great deal of information regarding fire safety. There is also information on how to participate in the Preschool Fire Safety Program and how to schedule a visit with the firefighters for your preschool group.



TEACHING TIPS

Firefighters are our friends. Here are some teaching tips to help reinforce this important message.

FIRE SAFETY IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOR

Show children how to be fire safe. Be fire safe in front of them and teach by example.

BOOKS TO READ

BIG FRANK'S FIRE TRUCK

by Leslie McGuire

Big Frank is a firefighter. Follow him around for a day on the job as a firefighter.

A VISIT TO THE SESAME STREET FIREHOUSE

by Dan Elliot

Join Big Bird, Grover and Ernie as they get to know the Sesame Street firefighters.

TEACHER RESOURCES

Fire Safety Education for Children aged 3 – 5.

Fire safety education kits are available for free loan from the Seattle Fire Department Education Office by calling 206.386.1338.

Follow-up with a fire station tour or visit from your local firefighters.

A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM BY BIC CORPORATION

IDEAL FOR:

- Preschool Teachers and Daycare Providers
- Firefighters

DESCRIPTION:

Teaches four important lessons in fire safety:

- My Friend the Firefighter
- Stop! Drop! And Roll!
- Crawl! Low Under Smoke!
- Safe for Play! Keep Away!

Each **Play safe! Be safe!** kit contains:

- 20-minute video featuring "Firefighter Dan"
- Color story/flash cards
- Dress the Firefighter activity board
- Safe for Play! Keep Away! activity board
- Keep Away! card game
- Comprehensive teacher's manual and resource book

REFERENCES:

- Endorsement: New York State Professional Firefighters Association
- Award: Director's Choice Award for Best Curriculum, *Early Childhood News*, 1997.

To purchase your own copy for \$12, contact Fireproof Children at 585.264.0840 or access their online order form at www.fireproofchildren.com/orderforms.htm



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FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS & DAYCARE PROVIDERS

