

# Fire Safety for Young Children

Early Childhood  
Education

Information  
Brief

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

## WHY FIRE SAFETY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN?

In the U.S.

- In 2016, 309 children died in home fires.\*\*
- Children 0-4 had the highest death rates due to fire compared to children of all ages.\*\*\*
- 87 percent of all fire-related deaths are due to home fires, which spread rapidly and can leave families as little as two minutes to escape once an alarm sounds.\*\*\*
- Children playing with fire is the lead cause of fire deaths among preschoolers.\*\*
- About 300 people per year are killed and \$280 million in property is destroyed in fires attributed to children playing with fire.\*\*

Sources: American Red Cross,\* U.S. Fire Administration,\*\*\* and the National Fire Protection Association.\*\*



## PHILOSOPHY OF FIRE SAFETY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Children can often repeat phrases like stop, drop and roll, but don't really know what they mean. Children learn through repetition - once is not enough for any fire safety message.

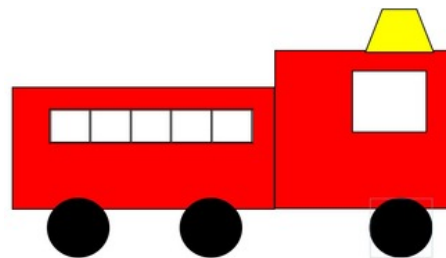
Children learn best:

- When freely exploring and becoming an active part of their learning
- When information is meaningful to them
- When allowed to choose where they want to play, how long they want to play there, and with whom they want to play

- When discovering it themselves. Not when someone "teaches" or "tells" them the information
- When given time to explore the materials at their own pace through creative expression

## FINDING TIME TO TEACH FIRE SAFETY

Fire Safety can be integrated into the curriculum all year and can be emphasized more during October, which is Fire Prevention Month. Concrete mathematical concepts, counting and shape identification can be addressed by counting the squares, rectangles, and circles on the side of a fire truck. Reading and discussion books about firefighters and fire safety can generate great discussions. Be sure you use activities that are developmentally appropriate and not just cute coloring sheets with no real meaning.



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## RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

### *Fire Safety for Young Children: An Early Childhood Education Curriculum*

This curriculum links the 8 nationally recognized fire safety messages for young children to the latest research for developmentally appropriate educational methods. Other key points about the curriculum:

- A developmentally appropriate curriculum that links 8 fire safety messages to methods and materials
- 15 days of instruction
- Based on 4 years of research, development and 100 classroom implementations
- Designed for children 4 & 5 years old, but easily adapted for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

Fire safety messages have been modified and presented in a deliberate sequence based on how young children develop, learn and understand.



The Curriculum in PDF file only:

[Fire Safety for Young Children: An Early Childhood Education Curriculum](#)

The Curriculum in PDF file with sounds and pictures (zip file format):

- [Fire Safety for Young Children: An Early Childhood Education Curriculum](#)

- [Click here to download sample sounds and pictures](#)

The final project report addressing its development.

- [Development of Fire Safety for Young Children Report 07](#)
- [A one page flyer about the Curriculum](#)

The curriculum was developed by The Center for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning, College of Human Environmental Sciences. In partnership with Fire Protection Publications College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology Oklahoma State University. This curriculum was made possible with financial support from Fire Prevention and Safety Grant funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

## OTHER RESOURCES:

- <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/children.html>
- [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fire\\_safety\\_trailer\\_curriculum.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fire_safety_trailer_curriculum.pdf)

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For more information:

<https://www.gpidea.org/ecems-information-briefs>

