

TEACHERS PACKAGE

Dear Teacher:

If you are reading this, I assume you have volunteered to participate in the Fire Safety House experience, or perhaps, your administrators have done the volunteering for you. In any event, if you are willing to invest some time in this program, you may be providing your students with some skills that could possibly save their lives.

Fire is the second major cause of accidental death and injury to children. The vast majority of these injuries and fatalities occur in the home. What this program attempts to do is not only provide students with fire safety information and skills, but also gives students a chance to practice those skills in a realistic, controlled environment.

The Fire Safety House is a mobile travel trailer that is a scaled down "Kid-sized" two-story house. Your students will be able to walk through a kitchen, living room, and bedroom and spot fire hazards. The children are able to practice simple methods of eliminating potentially dangerous situations. The students will be able to feel a "Hot Door" and locate an emergency escape route. At the conclusion of the tour, the students will be able to exit via a ladder as the Fire Safety House fills with a non-toxic smoke. All of the activities are done under the guidance of your local fire department.

While one group is touring the Fire Safety House, the others will be participating in demonstrations of fire department equipment, working on fire safety worksheets and puzzles or designing pictures or posters.

What is being asked of you, the classroom teacher, is to implement the pre-visit lessons in this packet, send home the parent letter and permission slips, and do a few follow up activities.

As a teacher, I helped to facilitate our school's participation in this experience. The kids loved it. It was fun, informative and was easy to integrate into our curriculum. It was also a timely and poignant experience for our students. Several months prior to the Fire Safety House visit, one of our families was left homeless in an apartment fire, and one of our third graders lost his life in a separate incident. It is our hope that this program may help to prevent such tragic losses.

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS FOR THE FIRE SAFETY HOUSE VISIT

1. Use the information in the introduction to discuss the upcoming visit with your class.
2. You may want to incorporate these lessons into some of your existing science, language arts or social studies classes.
3. Send home the enclosed permission slip.
4. You may want to contact the fire department that will be conducting the tour of the Fire Safety House. It is best to discuss any particular concerns or issues regarding your students.
5. The Fire Safety House visit is an excellent public relations experience for your school. Always contact the local TV stations and newspapers to see if they would be interested in covering this event.
6. The lessons in this curriculum have been kept brief and simple on purpose. Feel free to add, subtract, multiply, divide and generally customize the material to meet the needs of your students.
7. Take time to discuss with your class the proper behavior during the Fire Safety House demonstration.
8. If possible, go through the tour yourself. You should have an opportunity to experience being in the Fire Safety House when it is filled with the non-toxic smoke.

THE FIRE SAFETY HOUSE TOUR

Objective: The students will participate in the Fire Safety House tour, and demonstration conducted by the local firefighters. The tour will provide students with hands-on experience of the skills they learned in the classroom.

Time: 60-90 minutes

Materials: Pencils, paper, fire safety activity sheets

Procedures:

1. Divide your class into groups of 6-8.
2. One group will be touring the Fire Safety House, the other group will participate in the equipment demonstration, and the remaining students will work on the Fire Safety Activity Sheets. The groups will switch activities until each student has participated in each activity.
3. While the children are waiting on the tour, they can begin writing thank you letters to the firefighters, draw pictures to be included in the class fire safety booklet, or any other activity that you provide.
4. Review rules for proper behavior during the tour and demonstration.
5. If possible, try to take the tour of the Fire Safety House yourself.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss the Fire Safety House visit and what they learned. Encourage creative writing experiences.
2. Plaster the walls, halls and any other exposed areas with the posters, drawings, and artwork your students may have done in the pre-visit lessons.
3. Write thank-you cards or letters to the firefighters.
4. Compile their stories and drawings into a class fire safety book.
5. Invite parents to give feedback on whether or not there was family involvement or participation in any of the activities that were sent home.
6. Have your students help to prepare another class for their tour of the Fire Safety House.
7. Several weeks after the tour, you may want to review a few of the lessons with the class.
8. Encourage the students to recall the experience of the Fire Safety House and what they learned either orally or through a writing activity.
9. As you go through your science and social studies curriculum, refer back to the fire safety program whenever appropriate. Examples are; lessons on community helpers, how to respond to emergencies, properties of matter, electricity as related to causing fires, operating smoke detectors, etc.