



Preschool Lesson

A Smoke Detector Warns About Smoke or Fire

Background: Smoke detectors are an important part of life safety. When properly installed and maintained smoke detectors cut your risk of dying in a fire in half. Parents and other caregivers should install smoke detectors on every level of a home or daycare center and outside each sleeping area. Smoke detectors should be tested weekly by pushing the test button to make sure that the batteries are working. Smoke detector batteries should be replaced twice a year. A good time to do this is when you change your clocks for daylight savings time. Children need to know that smoke detectors warn them of smoke or fire and when they hear them they need to get out of the house or building immediately. Parents and teachers can teach young children what smoke detectors sound like and they can practice with children how to escape a fire when they hear a smoke detector go off.

Objectives:

1. 100 percent of the students will understand that a smoke detector is an important tool in escaping a home fire.
2. 100 percent of the students will describe the sound of a smoke detector when it is warning of smoke and fire.
3. 100 percent of the children will know that it is very important/imminent to escape a building when a smoke detector alarm goes off.

Vocabulary:

smoke, fire, smoke detector, alarm, sound, escape

Materials:

Smoke detector, Sesame Street Fire Safety Station CD (Song: “*Elmo’s Smoke Detector Song*”, stories: “*What’s that sound?*” and “*Ruthie the Firefighter*”)

Time:

20-30 minutes

Procedure:

1. Begin by telling the children that they need to be extra good listeners today because you are going to play a Sesame Street Story called “*What’s that Sound?*”
2. Have the students make predictions about what a story called “*What’s that sound?*” could be about. Allow several children to share their ideas. Tell the children, “*I want you to listen to the story to find out what the sound is and why it is important. After we listen to the story we will talk about what you learned.*”
3. Listen to the story, “*What’s that Sound?*” and the story “*Ruthie the Firefighter.*”
4. Post story discussion questions:
 - What did Ruthie teach Telly today? (How to recognize the sound of a smoke detector and to crawl out of the building to safety.)
 - Why do you think Ruthie taught Telly this lesson? (It is important to know what a smoke detector sounds like and what you need to do if you hear one go off.)
 - What do you do if a smoke detector goes off in your house or any building that you might be in? (Get low and crawl out of the house or building to safety.)
 - Who knows what a smoke detector is?
 - What does a smoke detector look like?
 - Do you see a smoke detector in this room? Where? Show it to me?
 - Show the students a smoke detector that you are holding. Say to the students, “A smoke detector

will warn you if there is smoke or fire. What should you do if you hear a smoke detector go off?

- Let each child touch the smoke detector and push the test button.
5. Teach the children “*Elmo’s Smoke Detector Song*” and sing it together. Tell the children that when the word smoke detector is mentioned in the song they should point to their noses and sniff. Demonstrate this while singing along with the song on the Sesame Street CD.
 6. Review the get low and go concept with the children. Have a student demonstrate how to crawl low. Tell the children that you are going to play a game called, “*Crawl low at the beep.*” Tell the students that they are going to march in a circle (or zig zag across the room) while you play some music. Use the songs, “*Get Low and Go,*” and “*Elmo’s Smoke Detector Song,*” for this game. Say to the children, “*I am holding a smoke detector that I am going to beep. As soon as the smoke detector beeps, everyone in the room needs to get on their hands and knees and crawl low to the exit.*” (Point out the door to the students.) Remind the children to keep their hands and feet to themselves and to be careful of others. Do this activity several times so that children can practice the correct response to a smoke detector alarm from more than one place in a room. Remind the children that “crawl low” is to be used only when they are in a room with smoke.

Extension Activities

1. Send home parent note: Smoke Detector Checklist.
2. Have the students make pretend smoke detectors from 2 small paper plates.