

## Learning about fire safety in early years

Keep children safe by teaching them about fire safety with our tips.

### Fire drills

After a practice fire drill:

- Discuss how you got out, why and the role of the fire brigade
- Make a fire symbol (used in place of a real fire) and ask older children to plan a route out of a room, using the fire symbol in different places. Get children to imagine there is a fire and practice crawling out of each space.



### Stop, Drop and Roll

Introduce the fire safety rule; Stop, Drop and Roll, about what to do if your clothes catch fire and practice this action

- Stop: Tell children to stop on the spot; moving or running adds oxygen to the flames enabling them to grow!
- Drop: Tell children to drop onto their knees and to put their hands over their nose and mouth; this gives some protection to their airways
- Roll: Encourage children to keep rolling back and forth like a ball, backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards; this will smother the flames and put them out. Use videos and images of the Stop, Drop and Roll rule to help you with this.

### Fire safety checks

- Carry out regular fire safety checks in your room with the children and check entrances are clear, emergency signs are visible



### The dangers of fire

- Discuss the dangers of fire and keeping ourselves safe
- Share books and pictures of the dangers of fire and what to do
- Invite someone from the fire service in to talk to the children about their job and fire safety

You can even plan a trip to a fire station and/or encourage children to take on the role of fire fighters, or doctors/nurses attending to the injured.

### **Considerations**

Ensure this is carried out in a sensitive manner suitable for the right age/stage of development of each child. Some children may be worried about the concept of setting themselves on fire.

Doing this activity alongside stories about the fire service and keeping safe, may be more appropriate for some children, especially younger ones.