



Session: Parents and caregivers at home **Age Group:** Various ages

Length of session: Adapt the session as appropriate to the age of the children and the amount of time you want to use. Each outcome can be a different session

Learning outcomes:

1. *4-6 year olds.* The children will be able to identify/name **good fires** and **bad fires**.
2. *All ages.* The children will know what number to call if there is a fire emergency **000 (zero zero zero)**.
3. *All ages.* The children will understand that they should not play with fire lighting materials, **“matches and lighters are tools not toys”**.
4. *8-16 year olds.* The children will understand why they must **“Stop, Cover, Drop and Roll”** if their clothes catch fire.

Materials:

- Colouring in and Puzzle sheets from the MFS website;
- Brochures for adults:
 Home Fire Escape Plan – what you need to know
 How to Make Your Home Fire Safe (also available in 18 languages).

1. Good fires, Bad fires

Sit the children on the floor.

- Ask the children to give you some examples of a **good fire**. (Candles, heating, cooking) With the younger age group you might need to provide them with examples and ask them if they're good fires. Birthday cake candles are a good starting point.
- Ask the children to give you some examples of a **bad fire**. (House fire, bush fire, car fire, bbq catches fire.).

Summarise for them – Good fires help us, but a good fire can turn into a bad fire very quickly and get out of control.

That's why we have to be fire safe and learn about fire safety.



2. In an emergency Dial Zero Zero Zero (000)

- Song one from the MFS website: “Dial Zero Zero Zero” could be played before, during or after this talk.
- While most children can tell you the number to call in an emergency they may not understand what an emergency is, i.e. what would happen to make them call **000**.
- Talk with them about when they should call 000 in relation to fire (e.g. not for a **good fire** but definitely for a **bad fire**).
- Explain that if there is a grown up in the house they should go to the adult first rather than trying to call **000** on their own.
- Keep it simple so as not to frighten younger children and perhaps teach them the words to the song.

Summarise – dial **zero zero zero** if there is a fire in the house. Get the children to repeat the slogan aloud.

3. Matches and Lighters are Tools not Toys.

- Ask the children to name some of their toys. Ask them what they do with their toys to get the response that they play with them. Tell them that toys are safe things to play with.
- Ask the children to name some tools that grown-ups work with – knives, saws, drills, hammers. Ask them if they think tools are safe things to play with.
- Make the link – matches and lighters are tools that grown ups use to light fires. Ask the kids, are they tools or toys?
- Tell the children that if they find matches or lighters they must never pick them up. They should tell an adult straight away.

Summarise – matches & lighters are tools not toys and we never play with them. Get the children to repeat the slogan aloud “**Matches and Lighters are Tools Not Toys!**”

4. Stop Cover Drop & Roll.

Ask the children if they know what they should do if their clothes catch fire?

- **Stop** moving
- **Cover** your face
- **Drop** to the floor
- **Roll** to put out the flames
- If the venue is suitable i.e. carpeted floor, then you could get the children to demonstrate.
- Summarise: Ask what they should do if their clothes catch fire – out loud – repeat **Stop Cover Drop and Roll**.



Conclusion

- Ask children if they had a good time and to tell you one thing they learned today.
- If there is no mention of **good fires** or **bad fires** ask them a specific question. “Did you learn about good fires and bad fires? Can you tell me one good fire? Can you tell me one bad fire?”
- If there is no mention of the number to dial in an emergency ask them if they can yell it out **000**.
- If there is no mention of matches and lighters, remind them and ask them if they can yell out the slogan: **matches and lighters are tools not toys!**
- If there is no mention of what to do if your clothes catch fire, ask them if they can yell out the slogan: **Stop Cover Drop and Roll!**
- Hand out colouring in and puzzle sheets downloaded from the MFS website.

For future reinforcement play the songs from the **MFS Website ‘Fire Dial 000’** on a regular basis.