

Introduction

This Fire Safety Big Book is part of a national fire safety programme which has been commissioned by the National Community Fire Safety Centre which is part of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to support the teaching of fire safety and fire safe behaviour among children and their families. This book can be used as a stand-alone resource, but we recommend that it be used as a part of the foundation programme. This includes a range of lesson plans and further activities for your pupils.

Outlined in this programme there are a set of Fire Safety Learning Objectives that have been developed by experienced fire safety educationalists to be appropriate for the age and ability of your pupils.

These key Learning Objectives have been highlighted throughout this book for your guidance. The materials also fit in with the Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals to enable you to incorporate the programme into your schemes of work.

Your local Fire and Rescue Service Community Fire Service (CFS) Officer will be able to support you in the delivery of this programme.

The Book

The book tells the story of the 'The Birthday Cake Mistake!' and is aimed to be used with reception aged children (4–5 yrs). The story can be narrated by either the class teacher or the local CFS Officer. Children can also contribute to the development of the story by engaging with the pictures.

The book is designed to be used with small groups or the whole class. Key questions and teaching points have been given on the reverse of each story picture, along with key Fire Safety Learning Objectives.

Working with the book

We have supplied a full-length version of the story in the book for your reference. There are also two differentiated levels of narrative provided on the reverse of each of the pages: one for younger or less able children and another for older or more able pupils.

Explain to the class that you are going to read a story about some children who played with matches and that you are all going to find out what happened.

As children work through the Big Book story they will learn how to act appropriately when a fire alarm sounds. They will also learn that matches and lighters are dangerous and should not be touched by children. In addition they will learn that 999 is the emergency number.

Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals

- Communication, language and literacy.
- Knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Emotional development.

Extension work

A template for a set of finger puppets of the characters from the story has been supplied for photocopying onto card. Children can colour in, cut out and assemble the puppets. They can then be used to re-enact the story and internalise the Fire Safety Learning Objectives.

In addition an A4 story sheet has been provided which will fold into a simple booklet for children to colour in, read (where appropriate) and to take home to show their parents/carers. For more able students there is a photocopiable sequencing activity.

Katie and Ben return from a birthday party

Narrative I (simple)

Katy and Ben have come back from a birthday party. Ben is showing Katy's mum his toy aeroplane. Mum is so busy cooking the dinner and looking at Ben's aeroplane that she doesn't notice when Katy picks up a box of matches.

Narrative I (detailed)

Katy and Ben are best friends and do nearly everything together. They have just come back from their friend Karen's birthday party and are very excited. Karen is a girl in their class and she is five.

"Did you have a good time?" asks Katy's mum.

"Oh yes," Ben answers. "It was great. We played loads of games and I won an aeroplane."

Ben then pretends to fly his plane through the air. Katy's mum is so busy cooking dinner and admiring Ben's aeroplane, that she doesn't notice Katy pick up a box of matches lying by the oven.



Key Questions

Q Where have Katy and Ben been?

Q Why doesn't Mum notice when Katy picks up the matches?

Q What should you do if you see matches or lighters lying around?

Q Where do you think matches and lighters should be kept?

Q Can you see anything else that is hot in the picture? (cooker, pan, kettle, iron)

Teaching Points

- Explain to children that matches and lighters are tools and should be used only by adults.
- Tell children that if they see matches or lighters lying around they must tell an adult.
- Explain that matches and lighters are dangerous because they can burn us and could easily cause a fire.
- Explain that fire spreads very quickly and can soon get out of control.
- Discuss with the children that there are lots of hot things in the kitchen that can burn us. Discuss examples.
- Explain that we must be careful in the kitchen.
- Point out that a kitchen is not a safe place to play.

Test Understanding

What do you think Katy has done wrong?
What should she have done?

Fire Safety Learning Objectives

- Pupils should be able to recognise hot and cold things around the home and potential dangers.
- Children should be able to identify matches and lighters as a danger.

Katy picks up the matches

Narrative 2 (simple)

Then Ben and Katy go upstairs to play, but Katy still has the matches in her hand. Dizzy the cat follows them.

Narrative 2 (detailed)

“Let’s go and play in my room, Ben,” says Katy, and they both go upstairs. Katy still has the matches in her hand. Her cat, Dizzy, follows her.



Key Questions

- Q Where are Katy and Ben going?**
- Q Who is following them?**
- Q What has Katy got in her hand?**
- Q Do you think Ben knows she has the matches?**
- Q Do you think mum has noticed that the matches are missing?**
- Q What do you think Katy might do?**
- Q Do you think she could hurt herself? Why?**

Teaching Points

- Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups and children should never touch them.
- Matches and lighters can hurt you; they can burn you and cause a fire.
- Fire spreads very quickly and gets out of control.

Test Understanding

What did Katy do that was dangerous? Do you think her mummy will be disappointed with her? Why?

Fire Safety Learning Objectives

- Children should be able to recognise hot and cold things around the home and potential dangers.
- Children should be able to identify matches and lighters as a danger.

Katy and Ben play with the matches

Narrative 3 (simple)

Katy shows Ben the matches and then they play a Happy Birthday game. They take turns to strike the matches and pretend to light the candles on a pretend cake. Ben isn't too happy about this game. Then he burns his fingers with a match and drops it on the bed. Just then, Ben's dad comes for him and Katy and Ben go downstairs.



Narrative 3 (detailed)

"Look what I've got," Katy says when they are in the bedroom, and she shows Ben the box of matches. "Now we can play a Happy Birthday game," she suggests. "We can pretend it's a party and that we're lighting the candles on my cake. You can sing me 'Happy Birthday' and then I blow the match out to make a wish." Ben isn't too sure about the idea, but just goes along with it to please Katy. The two children take it in turns to strike a match, but Ben burns his fingers with one match and drops it on Katy's bed. Just then they hear the doorbell ring. It is Ben's dad who's arrived to collect him. The two children quickly go downstairs – forgetting all about the matches.

Key Questions

- Q What do Katy and Ben do with the matches?**
- Q Whose idea is it to play the 'Happy Birthday' game?**
- Q Why do you think Ben is worried about the game?**
- Q What happens to Ben when he lights the match?**
- Q Why do the children go downstairs?**
- Q Can you see the smouldering match in Katy's bedroom?**
- Q What do you think will happen once they go downstairs?**

Teaching Points

- Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups and children shouldn't touch them.
- When Katy wanted to play the Happy Birthday game with the matches, Ben should have said "No".
- If someone tries to persuade you to play with matches or fire you should always say "No".
- Matches and lighters can hurt you, they can burn you and cause a fire.
- When Ben dropped the match it hadn't gone out properly and it caused a fire. Fire spreads very quickly and soon gets out of control.

Test Understanding

What do you think Ben should have done when Katy suggested playing the game? Why?

Fire Safety Learning Objectives

- Pupils should be able to recognise hot and cold things around the home and potential dangers.
- To be able to identify matches and lighters as a danger.

...the smoke alarms start beeping

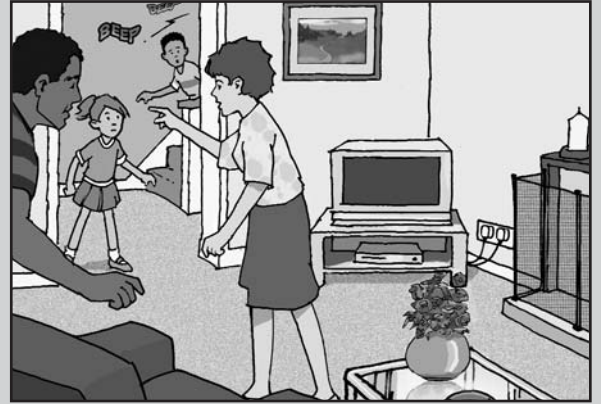
Narrative 4 (simple)

Suddenly the upstairs smoke alarm starts beeping and Katy's mum shouts "Fire!" Then they all make their way out of the house. Ben feels worried and guilty.

Narrative 4 (detailed)

The grown-ups are busy chatting. "Thank you for looking after Ben," says his dad. Suddenly the upstairs smoke alarm starts beeping. Katy's mum shouts "Fire!" Ben feels very worried and guilty because of the game he and Katy have been playing.

When Katy's mum points to the front door, they all know what to do and they all make their way out of the house quickly.



Key Questions

Q How does everyone know that there is a fire?

Q Whereabouts do you think the smoke alarm is in the house?

Q What sound does it make?

Q What does everyone do when they hear the smoke alarm?

Q Why do you think Ben is feeling worried?

Teaching points

- A smoke alarm tells you when there is a fire and gives you time to escape.
- A smoke alarm works even while you are asleep so that if a fire breaks out it will wake you up.
- When you hear a smoke alarm everyone must get out straight away.
- You should never stop to get anything.
- You should get out, stay out and call the Fire and Rescue Service out.
- Ask children to check at home to see how many smoke alarms they have.

Test Understanding

Should Katy's mum go upstairs to check what is on fire? Why not? What should you always do if a smoke alarm goes off?

Fire Safety Learning Objectives

- To be able to recognise different warning sounds including siren, smoke alarm, fire bell.
- To be able to act appropriately when a warning sound is recognised.

They all go outside and call 999

Narrative 5 (simple)

Then Ben's dad calls 999 and asks for the Fire and Rescue Service. He gives the address in a clear, calm voice and they all wait outside for the Fire and Rescue Service to come. Katy is worried about Dizzy.



Narrative 5 (detailed)

When they are all outside, Ben's dad uses his mobile phone to call 999 and he asks for the Fire and Rescue Service. He gives the address in a clear, calm voice so the firefighters will know where to go.

While they are waiting for the Fire and Rescue Service to arrive Katy suddenly remembers her cat Dizzy. "Quick, mummy! We must go back and get Dizzy." says Katy moving towards the front door.

"No!" warns her mum. "You must never go back inside if there is a fire – not for anything. It is too dangerous." The firefighters will save Dizzy.

Key Questions

Q What does Ben's dad do when they are all outside?

Q What number does he ring?

Q Who does he ask for?

Q What does he tell them?

Q Who does Katy remember when they are outside?

Q Why doesn't Katy go back?

Teaching Points

- If there is a fire you get out first and then you call out the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 999 is the emergency number.
- You ring 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service.
- Who else can you ask for?
- Always give your address in a clear, calm voice.
- You should wait outside with a grown-up.
- You should never go back inside for anything. Not even your pet.

Test Understanding

What number do you phone if there is an emergency?

Key Fire Safety Learning Objectives

- To be able to act appropriately when a warning sound is recognised.
- Children should know that 999 is the emergency number.
- To be able to recognise different warning sounds including siren, smoke alarm, fire bell.

The Fire and Rescue Service arrive

Narrative 6 (simple)

Soon the Fire and Rescue Service come to put out the fire. The grown-ups are disappointed with Katy and Ben, but they have both learnt their lesson and promise never to play with matches again. Then they see Dizzy the cat safe and well in the arms of one of the firefighters.

Narrative 6 (detailed)

Very soon the fire engines arrive and the fire is put out quickly. The grown-ups are disappointed with Katy and Ben, but they have both learnt their lesson and promise never to play with matches again. One of the firefighters tells the children how silly they have been to play with matches and how lucky they are that no one was hurt. Suddenly they all hear a familiar “Meow.” It is Dizzy and she is safe and well in the arms of one of the firefighters.



Key Questions

Q How did the Fire and Rescue Service know where to go?

Q Do you think the firefighters got the fire under control?

Q Why are the grown-ups disappointed with Katy and Ben?

Q What do you think the firefighter said to Katy and Ben?

Q What do Katy and Ben promise to do?

Q Do you think they will keep their promise? Why?

Teaching Points

- If there is a fire you get out, stay out and call the Fire and Rescue Service out.
- Knowing your address is important so that the Fire and Rescue Service can find your home.
- You should speak clearly and calmly.
- Playing with matches and lighters is very dangerous.
- Matches and lighters can burn you and start a fire.
- Fire spreads very quickly.
- Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups.

- If you see matches and/or lighters lying around, always tell a grown-up.

Test Understanding

What have you learnt from Katy and Ben's story?

Fire Safety Learning Objectives

- To be able to act appropriately when a warning sound is recognised.
- To know that 999 is the emergency number.
- To be able to identify matches and lighters as a danger.

The Birthday Cake Mistake! Full narrative

Katy and Ben are best friends and do nearly everything together. They have just come back from their friend Karen's birthday party and are very excited. Karen is a girl in their class and she is five.

"Did you have a good time?" asked Katy's mum.

"Oh yes," Ben answers. "It was great. We played loads of games and I won an aeroplane."

Ben then pretends to fly his plane through the air. Katy's mum is so busy cooking dinner and admiring Ben's aeroplane that she doesn't notice Katy pick up a box of matches lying by the oven.

"Let's go and play in my room, Ben," says Katy. They both go upstairs. Katy still has the matches in her hand. Her cat, Dizzy follows her.

"Look what I've got," she says when they are in the bedroom and she shows Ben the box of matches. "Now we can play a Happy Birthday game," she suggests. "We can pretend it's a party and that we're lighting the candles on my cake. You can sing me 'Happy Birthday' and then I blow the match out to make a wish." Ben isn't too sure about the idea, but just goes along with it to please Katy.

The two children take it in turns to strike a match, but Ben burns his fingers with one match and drops it on Katy's bed. Just then they hear the doorbell ring. It is Ben's dad who's arrived to collect him. The two children quickly go downstairs – forgetting all about the matches.

The grown-ups are busy chatting. "Thank you for looking after Ben," says his dad. Suddenly the upstairs smoke alarm starts beeping. Katy's mum shouts "Fire!" Ben feels very worried and guilty because of the game he and Katy have been playing.

When Katy's mum points to the front door, Ben knows what to do and they all quickly make their way out of the house.

When they are all outside Ben's dad uses his mobile phone to call 999 and he asks for the Fire and Rescue Service. He gives the address in a clear, calm voice so the firefighters know where to go.

While they were waiting for the Fire and Rescue Service to arrive Katy suddenly remembers her cat Dizzy. "Quick mummy! We must go back and get Dizzy." Katy says moving towards the front door. "No!" warns her mum. "You must never go back inside if there is a fire – not for anything. It is too dangerous. The firefighters will save Dizzy."

Very soon the fire engines arrive and the fire is quickly put out. The grown-ups are disappointed with Katy and Ben, but they have both learnt their lesson and promise never to play with matches again. One of the firefighters tells the children how silly they have been to play with matches and how lucky they are that no one was hurt. Suddenly they hear a familiar "Meow." It is Dizzy and she is safe and well in the arms of one of the firefighters.

Ben and Katy have both had a nasty scare, but realise their mistake and promise never to play with matches or fire again.