

Smoke Alarms are Important

Teacher Information

Smoke alarms save lives. Every home needs working smoke alarms. They should be installed on every level of the home (including the basement), outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom. A smoke alarm senses smoke, and it will make a “beep, beep, beep” sound if there is smoke in the home. When the smoke alarm makes the beep, beep, beep sound, everyone should get outside right away. Everyone should know the beep, beep, beep sound of the smoke alarm and how to respond quickly.

Some smoke alarms have a speaking voice or allow for a family member to record her or his voice in addition to the “beep, beep, beep.” Smoke alarms for people with disabilities may have a different tone, flashing lights, or a shaker under the bed pillow.

Sometimes a smoke alarm makes a chirp sound, like a chirping bird. That means the battery is not working well or the smoke alarm is getting old and needs to be replaced.



Responding to Questions

Children may ask questions that are difficult to answer. Here are some frequently asked questions and recommended answers to help them understand how to react safely.

1. “What if I have a baby brother or sister who doesn’t know what to do when the smoke alarm beeps? What will happen to them?”

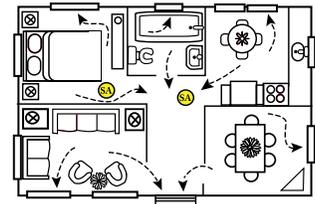
Tell the children the grown-ups in the home will hear the sound and bring the baby and anyone else who needs help outside. If someone is unable to get out for some reason, it is the firefighters’ jobs to get them out of the home. Reinforce that children only have one job and that is to “get outside and stay outside.”

2. “Our smoke alarm goes off sometimes when Mommy or Daddy is cooking. Should we go outside?”

Explain that when a grown-up is cooking and the smoke alarm sounds, he or she is there to determine if everyone should get out quickly. Grown-ups can make this decision. If a grown-up says to go outside when the smoke alarm beeps, it is important to do what he or she says. But, if no grown-up is around and you hear the smoke alarm, you should get outside as quickly as possible.

3. “What will happen to my pet (dog, cat, fish...) if I don’t bring her or him outside with me?”

Children might become upset when they are told to leave their pets behind. Explain that many pets will leave the home with the family because they can sense danger. Also, comfort the children by explaining that firefighters will save the pets when they can.



Teaching Points

- A smoke alarm will let people know if there is a fire in their home.
- Every home needs working smoke alarms.
- If there is smoke, the smoke alarm will make a loud “beep, beep, beep, pause, beep, beep, beep pause.”
- Here are the four important things to do if the smoke alarm makes the “BEEP, BEEP, BEEP” sound:
 1. **STOP** what you are doing. Get up and walk.
 2. **CHOOSE** the best way out of the room. Each room should have at least 2 ways out.
 3. **GET** outside quickly.
 4. **GO** to your outside meeting place.
- Sometimes a smoke alarm makes a chirp sound, like a chirping bird. That means the battery is not working well or the smoke alarm is getting old.
- When you hear a CHIRP, let a grown-up know so they can put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.

Objectives

The student will:

- Identify the sounds of a smoke alarm.
- Sequence the four important things to do when responding to the “beep, beep, beep” sound of a smoke alarm.



Kids

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Procedure

1. Activate prior knowledge by asking students what they know about smoke alarms and whether they have seen or heard one before.
2. Show the students a smoke alarm and tell them that smoke alarms are incredibly important because they save lives by alerting people if there is a fire. Explain to the students that a smoke alarm senses smoke and therefore can alert them if there is a fire they cannot see.
3. Tell the students that you will be testing the smoke alarm for them to hear and that they should listen for a loud “beep, beep, beep, pause, beep, beep, beep, pause” sound. If the smoke alarm is working, test it for the students to hear. If you do not have a working smoke alarm, you might be able to find the beep, beep, beep sound of one online to play for them.
4. Have students turn to a partner and discuss reasons why a smoke alarm would sound. Have students share with class. What are some sounds you have heard smoke alarms make?
5. Tell the students that it is important not only to know what a smoke alarm sounds like and means, it is essential to know what to do next. Encourage students to think about what they should do if a smoke alarm sounds and think about each action they would take.

CHIRP: Explain to students that sometimes a smoke alarm makes a chirp sound, like a chirping bird. That means the battery is not working well or the smoke alarm is getting old. When you hear the CHIRP, let a grown-up know so they can put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP: Explain that there are four important things to do when the smoke alarm makes the BEEP, BEEP, BEEP sound.

6. Use the illustration cards and discuss the four important things to do if the smoke alarm makes the BEEP, BEEP, BEEP sound:
 1. **STOP** what you are doing. Get up and walk.
 2. **CHOOSE** the best way out of the room. Each room should have at least 2 ways out.
 3. **GET** outside quickly.
 4. **GO** to your outside meeting place.
7. Distribute a set of cards to each student. Have students work in pairs to discuss each illustration and what it is telling them about responding to the sound of the smoke alarm. *This can also be done as a class.
8. Have each student put the cards in correct order. Have the students turn to a partner and discuss the order of their cards. Students can write 1–4 to help put the steps in order.

Optional Assessment

Provide students with construction paper. Students will summarize the four steps for responding to a smoke alarm through illustrations. Older students can write a sentence for each illustration using ordinal language (first, second, third, and last).



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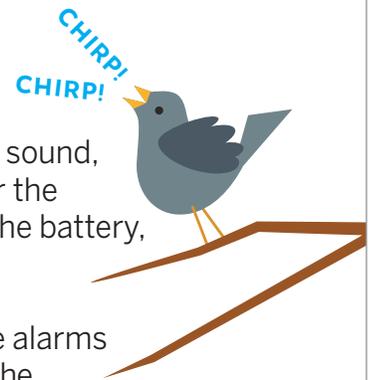
Dear Family,

Our class is learning about fire safety. Today we learned “Smoke Alarms Are Important.” Your child learned to identify the sounds of a smoke alarm and its important role in keeping us safe from a fire. It is important to have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside each sleeping room. They must be able to hear the smoke alarm if they are asleep. We discussed how important it is to get outside when the smoke alarm sounds and go to their outside meeting place.

Your child learned the four important things to do when they hear the BEEP, BEEP, BEEP sound of a smoke alarm:

1. **STOP** what you are doing.
2. **CHOOSE** the best way out of the room. Each room should have at least 2 ways out.
3. **GET** outside quickly.
4. **GO** to your outside meeting place.

They also learned that sometimes a smoke alarm makes a chirp sound, like a chirping bird. That means the battery is not working well or the smoke alarm is getting old. When you hear the CHIRP it means the battery, or the entire alarm, must be replaced.



Please talk to your child about the importance of working smoke alarms in your home and the four important things to do when they hear the BEEP, BEEP, BEEP sound of a smoke alarm.

Together we can keep your family safe from fire.

Sincerely,
