

# Children and Fire Safety Fact Sheet



Young children are naturally curious about fire, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Instead of avoiding the topic, take their interest as an opportunity to answer their questions and teach them about fire safety.

A knowledge of fire safety is important for all ages. Your child should understand the fundamentals of fire safety and what to do if a fire starts. Here are some tips to approach the topic of fire safety with your kids:

- Explain that fire moves very fast and can hurt as soon as it touches them.
- Teach children the nature of fire – It is FAST, HOT, DARK and DEADLY.
- Explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
  - Store matches and lighters out of their reach, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Talk to your kids about what their friends or other children are doing with fire and teach them ways to resist peer pressure to misuse fire.

The most effective and natural way to teach children about fire safety is to set a good example when you're using things like matches, lighters, candles, fireplaces, campfires, etc. If you always use a fire source in a safe manner, the greater the chances of children understanding that they are not toys.

For further tips on how to teach children about fire safety, please contact your local fire department.