

Tamati and Sam *Get Firewise*



GET FIREWISE
FAMILY
BOOK

**Keeping your
kids safe**

Read the **Parents' Safety Tips**.
Act now to keep your family
safe from the dangers of fire.

ACTIVITIES
INSIDE



PARENTS'
SAFETY TIPS



MAKE AN
ESCAPE PLAN



"We're a
firewise family!"

Dear parents

Your child is learning about fire safety at school. This book and the video resources are to help the whole family Get Firewise.

Read the story to your child and complete the activities together.



Activity 1

- ➔ Watch the story *Stop The Home Fires Burning*.
- ➔ Talk with your child about things your family does to make sure fires don't start at home.

www.fireandemergency.nz/getfirewise

I was sad when Mia, James, and Mum went off to school camp. "Your turn next year, Tamati", said Mum. "Never mind, you'll have a great time with Dad tonight."

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Keep lighters and matches out of reach

Many house fires are started by children playing with matches, lighters and candles.

Get Firewise teaches children who find matches and lighters to take them to an adult.

If your child brings you matches or a lighter:

- ➔ put them in a safe place
- ➔ praise your child for being Firewise.

Activity 2 Matches and lighters

Talk with your child about who uses matches and lighters at home and what to do if they find them.





That night Dad cooked my favourite tea. Our dog, Sam, gobbled up one of my sausages then begged for more. I offered him one of my carrot sticks. Dad saw us and growled, "If Mum were here, you know what she'd say, Tamati..." Then he winked at me.

Sam sniffed the carrot and thought, "I'd much prefer another sausage, anyway."

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Keep looking when you're cooking

Did you know:

- ➔ there are around 4,000 house fires in New Zealand each year
- ➔ 1/4 of all house fires start in the kitchen
- ➔ 1/3 of all fire deaths are caused by unattended cooking
- ➔ alcohol is involved in 50% of all fatal house fires.

And, don't drink and fry.





Dad brought us some popcorn and we watched our favourite DVD. I gave some popcorn to Sam. He chewed it for a while.

"Hmm", he thought. "This food is hard to eat." He ate another piece and thought again. "Not my favourite food, but the more you eat, the better it tastes."

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Keep clear of the heater

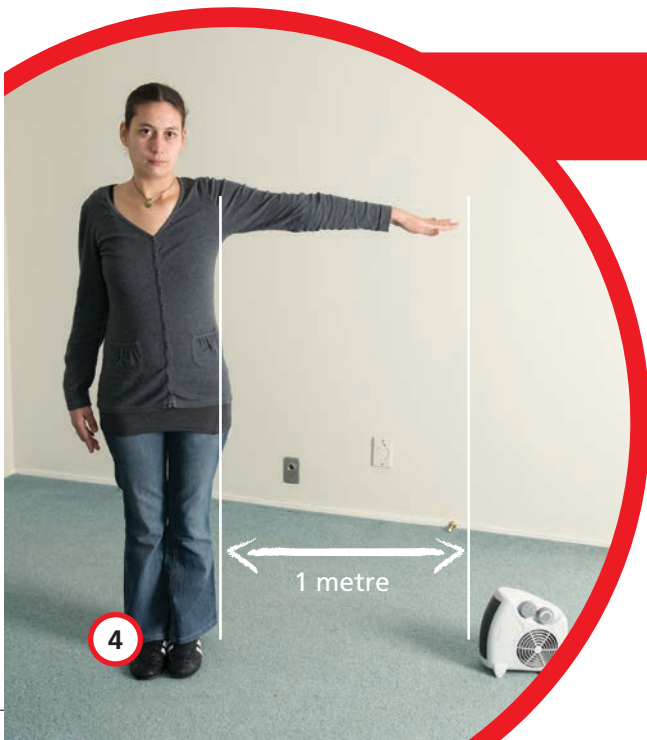
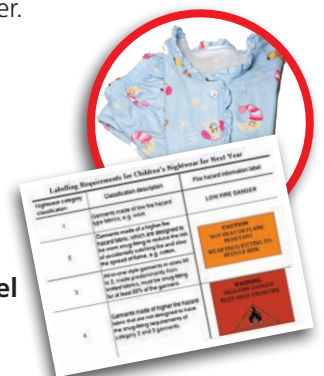
➔ Keep people and things 1 metre from the heater.



Overloaded plugs can kill

- Use a multi-board with a circuit breaker.

Make sure children's nightwear has this label





When the DVD finished, Dad tucked me in to bed. I tried to get him to read an extra story, but he said, "Tamati, it's way past bedtime. It's time for sleep. I'll let Sam sleep on your bed just this once, okay?"

He turned out the light.

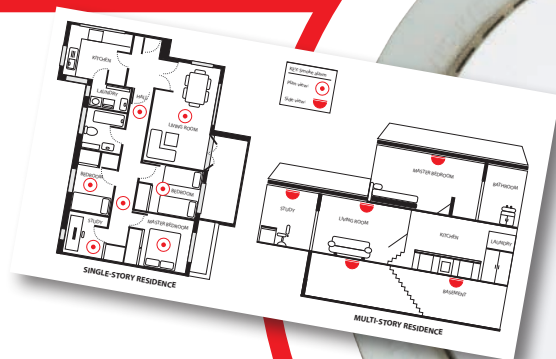
Sam and I closed our eyes.

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Are your smoke alarms working?

When you are asleep, you cannot smell smoke.

- ➔ If there is a fire in your house, the smoke alarm will wake you up.
- ➔ If you do not have a smoke alarm and you are asleep when a fire starts, the poisonous smoke will kill you.
- ➔ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway.
- ➔ Make sure you use **photoelectric smoke alarms**.
- ➔ Contact your local fire station if you need help installing a smoke alarm.
- ➔ For more information visit www.fireandemergency.nz





Later, we were woken up by a loud noise in the bedroom. **BEEEP BEEEP!** The sound was loud!

It was very dark. Sam started barking. He wouldn't stop. We were scared. Then I figured out what the noise was. **BEEEP BEEEP!** It was the smoke alarm!

"Quick, Sam", I yelled. "It's a fire! We've got to get out of here **FAST.**"

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Activity 3 Smoke alarms

Watch the story *Escape plans* with your family:
www.fireandemergency.nz/getfirewise

Complete these questions so your child has information to take to school.

① How many smoke alarms do you have?

② What rooms are they in?

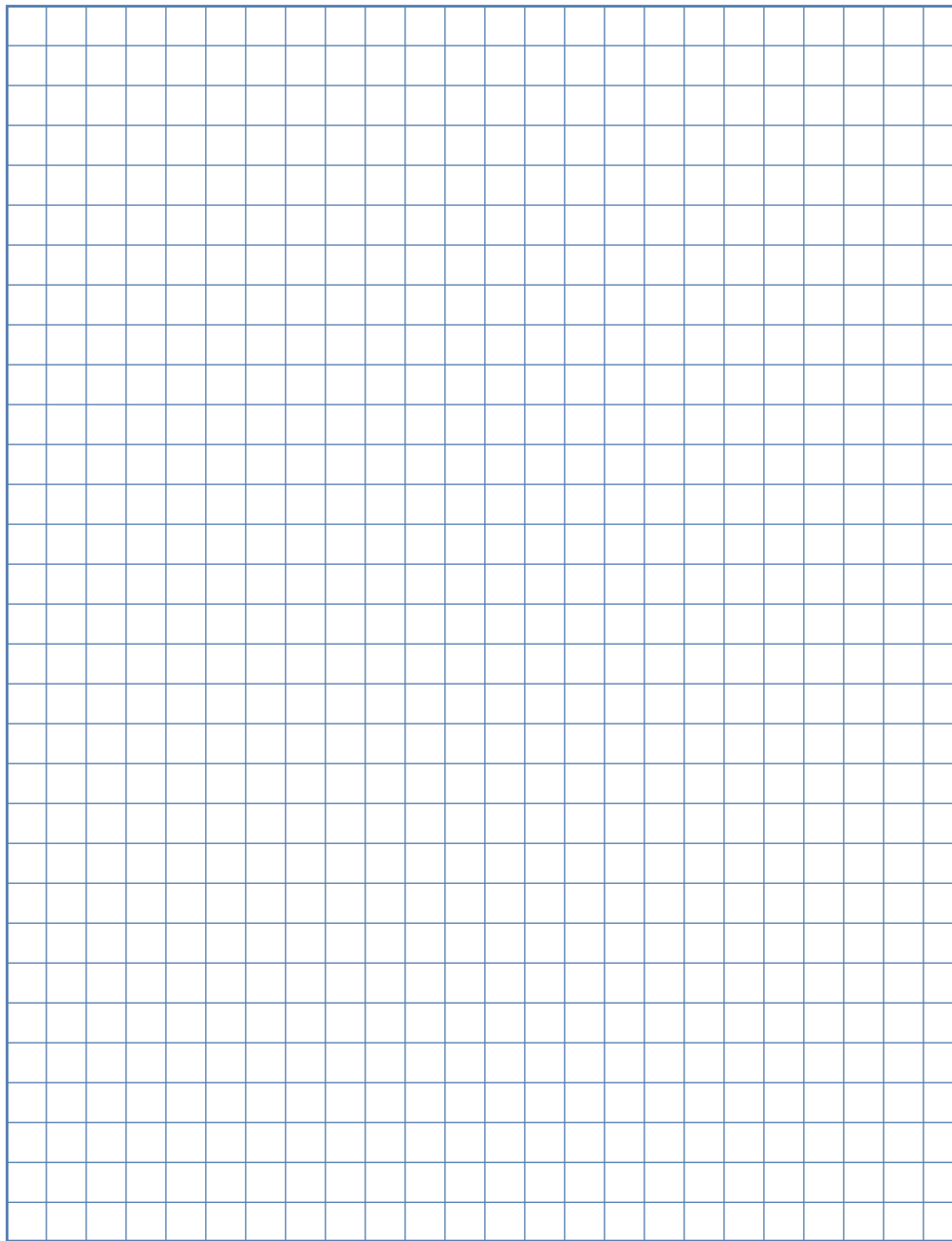
③ After testing your smoke alarms, how many were working?

If you don't have smoke alarms, get some!

It's no use having a smoke alarm if it's not working!

- You are four times more likely to survive a fire in your home if you have **working smoke alarms**.
- When a smoke alarm starts cheeping, this means the battery needs to be changed.
- Change the smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks for daylight saving.
- **Test your smoke alarms every month** by pushing the test buttons and making sure the alarms beep.

Our escape plan



PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Make your escape plan

An escape plan is a diagram showing all the rooms of your house and two ways out of each room.

- ➔ You need two ways to get out of every room in case the main way out is blocked by fire.
- ➔ The two exits from a room are usually the door and a window.

Activity 4

Make your escape plan

- ➔ With your family, draw a plan of your house on the grid on this page.
- ➔ Mark at least two exits from every room.
- ➔ You might want to practise on another sheet of paper first.
- ➔ You can also make an escape plan online at www.escapeplanner.co.nz





“Stay with me, Sam, or I’ll have to leave you behind”, I yelled. “I can’t muck about. I’ve got to get out **FAST**.”

“I’m right with you!” thought Sam.

The smoke alarm was very loud – it reminded us to **GET OUT REALLY FAST**.

PARENTS’ SAFETY TIPS

Practise using your escape plan

(✓ Tick circle)

- Make sure everyone in your family can get out of the two exits from each room.
- Explain to your children that if they hear the smoke alarm, they must **STOP** what they are doing and get out of the house **FAST**.
 - 1 They must **NOT** take time to gather possessions or pets.
 - 2 They must **NOT** look for other members of the family.
 - 3 They must get out **FAST**, go to the safe meeting place and wait for the rest of the family there.
- Remind your children that, if there is a fire, they might have to do this without an adult with them.





Sam started heading down the hall, but I could see smoke down there. "NO, Sam", I said firmly. "Come with me. We need to go another way. Let's go out the living room door."

"It's a fire!" Sam thought. "It's dangerous. I'm not hanging about in here. I've got to get out **FAST, FAST, FAST.**"

"**FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!**" Sam barked.

"**FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!**" I shouted.

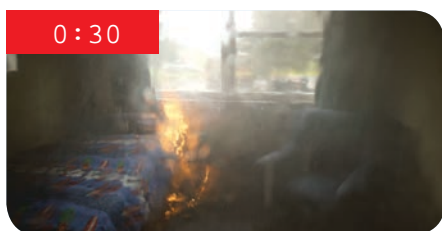
Activity 5 Fires are fast

Watch the story *The speed of fire* with your family.
www.fireandemergency.nz/getfirewise

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

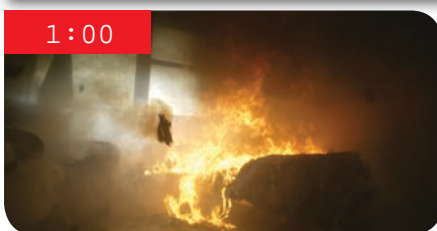
Fires are fast

It takes only three minutes to lose your home and family to fire.

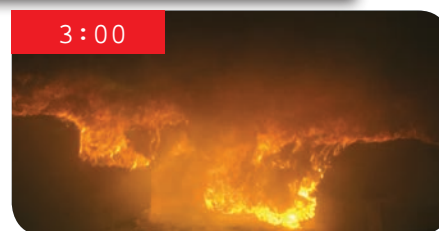


By now a smoke alarm in the room would be beeping to warn you there is a fire.

Fires in a room burn very fast and give off poisonous smoke. If you breathe this smoke, you will die.



The room is well alight. You can still get out of this room if you move **FAST** and keep low under the smoke.



The fire is hotter than 800° Celsius. Everything is on fire. No one remaining in this room would be alive.



We hurried into the living room.
I opened the door, and we went outside.
I shut the door, and we ran down the path.

"FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!" Sam barked.

"FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!" I shouted.

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Your home can be secure and fire safe

Everybody must be able to get out of the house quickly in a fire.

- ➔ If any doors or windows need a key to unlock them from the inside, leave the key in the lock.
- ➔ Help your children practise unlocking and opening doors and windows.
- ➔ Make sure your children can reach all the windows and can open them easily.
- ➔ Make sure your hallways are clear of things so your family can move quickly and safely in the dark.



Sam stopped outside the front door and barked.

"No, Sam," I said. "We can't look for Dad. That's a **BAD** idea. We are **NOT** going back inside. There's a fire in there. We have to go to the gate. Remember, that's our safe meeting place."

We kept moving **FAST**.

"**FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!**" Sam barked.

"**FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!**" I shouted.

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Do you live in a two-storeyed house?

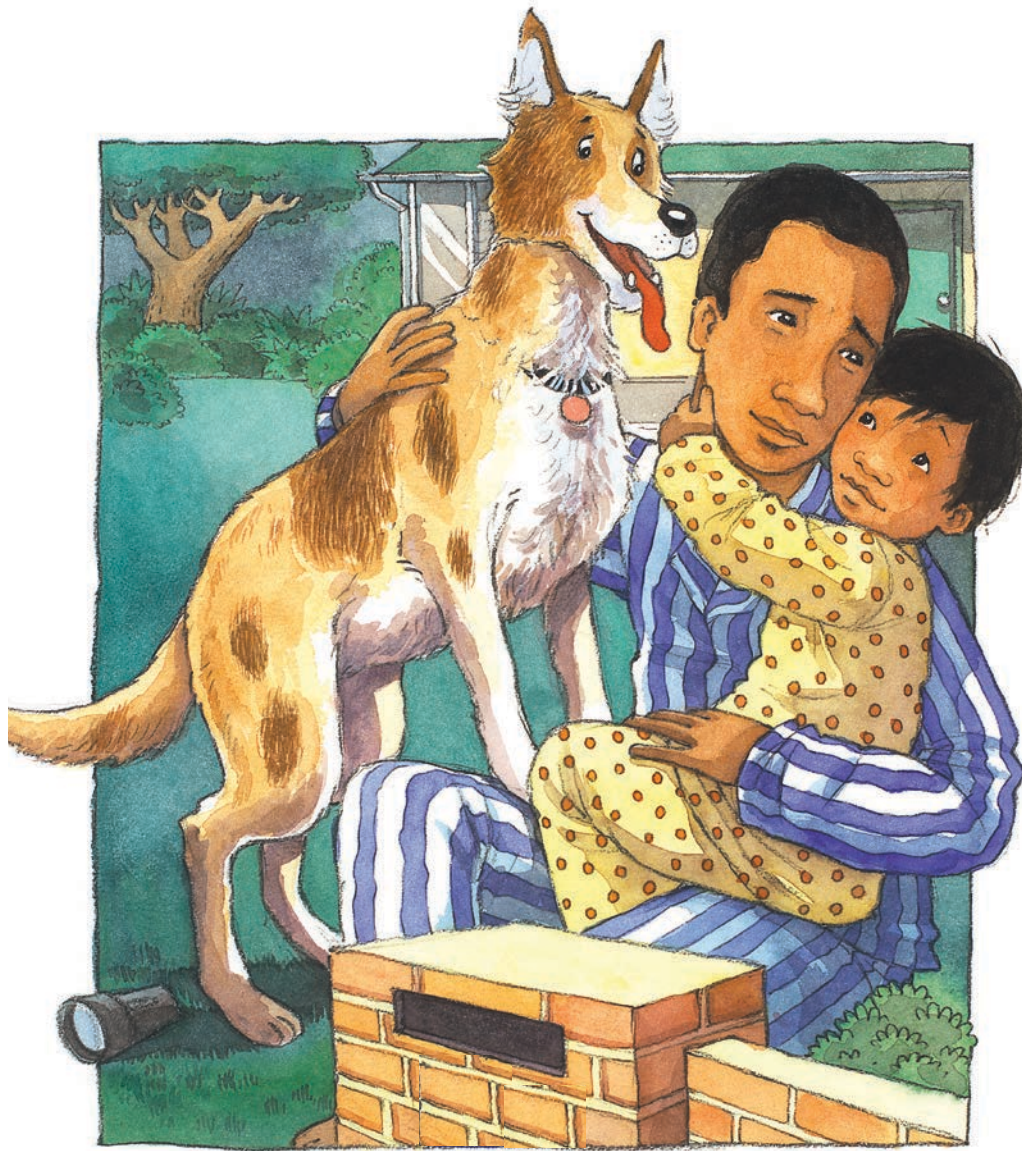
If you do, you could:

- ➔ have a ladder attached to the outside wall of your house
- ➔ attach a rope near a window that opens so people can climb down it.

If you can't escape from upstairs windows and you can't use the stairs, teach your family to:

- ➔ go into a room where there is no fire and shut the door
- ➔ go to the window and open it
- ➔ breathe the fresh air
- ➔ wave and shout **FIRE, FIRE, FIRE**
- ➔ wait to be rescued.





Sam and I reached the safe meeting place by the gate. Then Dad arrived. He swept me up into a big hug. Sam and I were so pleased to see him. Sam jumped up and licked Dad all over. Dad hugged him, too.

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Your safe meeting place

The safe meeting place is where you and your family will meet if there is a fire in your home.

Activity 6 Safe meeting place

Our safe meeting place is
Put the *Safe Meeting Place Sticker* your child brings home at your safe meeting place.

A safe meeting place is:

- ➔ well away from the house
- ➔ away from power lines and things that can burn
- ➔ near a road or driveway so that emergency services can find you.

It could be your letterbox or gate.





Dad called 111 on his mobile. He asked for the firefighters to come and put the fire out.

We were outside in our pyjamas. It was cold, but it didn't matter. We were safe.

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Call 111

If your house is on fire, call 111 from a safe place.

- 111 calls are free from all phones. Use your mobile phone, a phone from the neighbour's house or a payphone.
- Ask for the Fire Service.
- Tell the operator your:
 - house number
 - street, for example, 'Devon Street'
 - nearest intersection, cross street or corner, for example, 'Devon Street is off Rimu Road'
- suburb and city, or
- rural ID number, if you have one.
- Check that every member of your family over the age of five can call 111 and give their name and address.
- Make sure your family knows that you only call 111 in an emergency and not as a joke.

Activity 7 Call 111

Teach your children to call 111 in an emergency.

You could role play the call using a phone that is switched off or unplugged.



The fire truck arrived and the firefighters leapt out. A firefighter checked that everybody was safe and there was no one in the house.

A firefighter in breathing gear crawled into the house with a hose. The firefighters put the fire out.

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Firefighters fight fires and rescue people

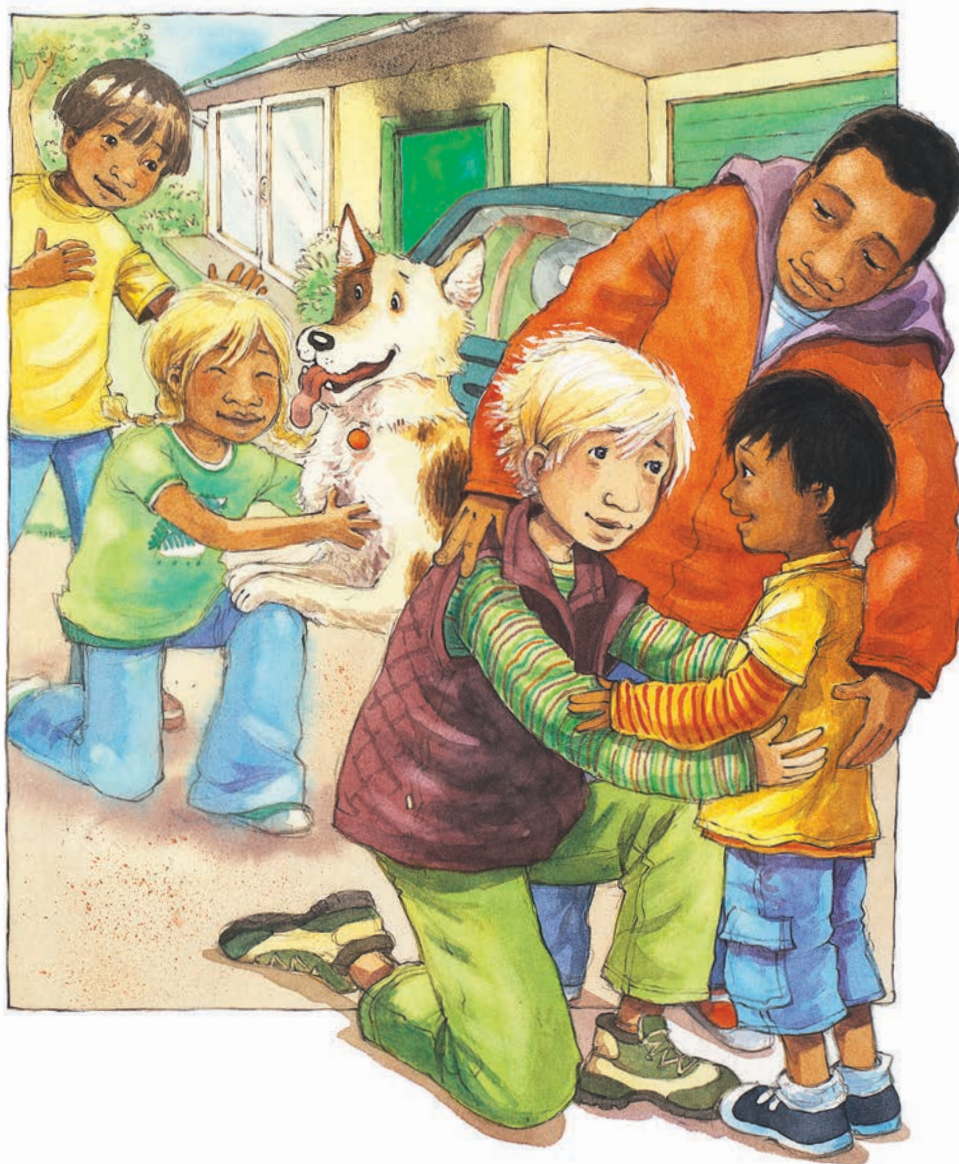
Activity 8 Fatal fire

Watch the story *Fatal fire – One family's story* with the older members of your family: www.fireandemergency.nz/getfirewise

In this story, the family discusses what it was like for them to lose a child in a fire. It is not suitable viewing for a five or six year old, because the story has information about a fatal house fire presented in a similar manner to a television news bulletin.

Do **NOT** go into a burning building to rescue people.

- ➔ In a fire, the firefighters will come and rescue people. They have fire-resistant clothing and breathing gear to keep them safe.
- ➔ If you go back into the house to look for anyone or anything, you are risking your life. You are likely to be overcome by the smoke, become unconscious and die.



When Mum, Mia and James came home from camp, they were so pleased with me and Sam. Dad told them how Sam and I went quickly to the safe meeting place.

Mum said Sam and I were superheroes because we'd remembered what to do to keep ourselves safe.

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Keeping your family safe from fire

- 1 Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- 2 Have working smoke alarms in your home.
- 3 Make an escape plan and practise it with the whole family.
- 4 If there is a fire in your house, get out **FAST** and do not go back inside.
- 5 If there is a fire in a room, **get down, get low, get out – FAST**.

Candles

Children should not:

- be left alone with a lit candle
- light candles, move them or put them out
- have a lit candle near their bed.

If you are using a candle, place it on a flat, wide base that won't burn and will catch any dripping candle wax.





Get down

get I



PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

Get down, get low, get out – FAST

If a fire starts in a room you are in, you have less than 3 minutes to get out safely.

- ➔ Keep low under the smoke.
- ➔ Smoke is poisonous and more deadly than flames. If you breathe the smoke for even just a few seconds, it will kill you.
- ➔ When the fire starts, the smoke will be at the top of the room. You need to get out FAST, keeping low under the smoke.

If the smoke level is very low, you will have to crawl.

- Get down, get low, get out – FAST.
- Shut the door.
- Shout FIRE, FIRE, FIRE.
- Stay out.
- Go to the safe meeting place.



low get out – FAST

PARENTS' SAFETY TIPS

If you cannot escape through the door, you should then:

- ➔ shut the door – this will give you extra time to escape the smoke and heat
- ➔ crawl to the window, keeping low under the smoke, take a deep breath of air, then reach up and open the window
- ➔ take another deep breath of air from under the smoke level, then climb out the window and shout FIRE, FIRE, FIRE
- ➔ go to your safe meeting place – never go back inside
- ➔ call 111 from somewhere away from the burning building.

Activity 9

Get down, get low, get out – FAST!

Practise **get down, get low, get out – FAST** with the whole family escaping from the living room and bedrooms and going to the safe meeting place.



A fire-safety check to do at night

Do a fire check every night before you put out the light.

- ✓ Is all cooking off the stove and is it turned off?
- ✓ Is the fire in the fireplace out?
- ✓ Are all electrical appliances, including televisions, DVDs, computers and hairdryers, turned off at the wall?
- ✓ Are all heaters turned off?
- ✓ Are all electric blankets turned off?
- ✓ Are all cigarettes stubbed out in a safe container?
- ✓ Are all candles out?
- ✓ Are doors closed to slow the speed of a fire?
- ✓ Are all doors secure, with keys in deadlocks?
- ✓ Are all ways out of the house clear, so people can get out FAST?
- ✓ Is all your family secure and safe?



Fire and Emergency NZ
hopes you have enjoyed
reading this book and
watching the videos with
your family.



INDER

For more information, visit
www.getfirewise.org.nz
or contact your local
fire station.

You can learn more about being firewise by visiting the websites
www.getfirewise.org.nz and www.fireandemergency.nz



New Zealand Government