

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT... "SAFETY AWARENESS"

The information and activities contained in this book are meant to be used as a supplement to the fire, street, and water safety curriculum that you currently utilize in your program. When teaching activities related to safety, it is often beneficial to use a team approach, using the expertise of other professionals in the community, to present information in a variety of different context. For example: fire safety - fire fighters; road safety - crossing guard, police officers; water safety - coast guard, life guard, YMCA, YWCA, or local youth swimming program. Remember, families are always part of the educational team. Send families information regarding the safety messages you are teaching the children. Many of the safety precautions can be implemented and reiterated by the families. Children will often need to hear the safety messages repeated again and again and in different formats until they completely comprehend and are able to use them in their life experiences.

The "Safety First" Facts



Fire:

Fires are the number one cause of death in the home for children 5 years and younger.

Children are often frightened by the fire fighter's appearance. Children need to know that fire fighters will have equipment on and are there to help them.

Young children can recognize and respond to "signals." It is important that smoke detectors are used and children are familiar with their sound, as well as know what to do when they hear the sound.

Children should be taught that matches, lighters, appliances (irons, ovens, microwaves) are for grown ups.

In many cases, the smoke and gases will kill before the fire. Children should be taught to crawl and stay low while they are following the escape plan.



Street/Road:

Competent adult supervision is essential to the safety of young children and should always be practiced when children are near a street.

Children should be taught to avoid playing in the road, driveway or garage. Playing on sidewalks and in yards is often safer.

Children should understand the message that they are to always wear a helmet and other safety gear when riding a bike or on skates.

Young children can learn to recognize street signs and start to learn the "language" of the street. But, they often will not have developed the judgment and understanding of traffic rules necessary to safely navigate in the street. Therefore, it is good practice to restrict cyclists to sidewalks and paths until they reach the age of 10 and can understand the rules of the road.

Each state or community may have their own street "rules" to follow. Children often learn a great deal from modeling. Adults who actively practice the rules are teaching the children the "right" messages. For example: in their cars (seat belts, safety seats, following traffic signs and signals), when riding a bike (wearing a helmet), when walking across a street (stopping and looking).



Water:

Competent adult supervision is essential when young children are near water (i.e., pools, wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, spas, hot tubs, lakes, ocean, etc.). Adults should learn CPR and have emergency phone numbers and a telephone near the water source at all times.

If boating, follow the local rules, especially reinforcing the wearing of approved personal safety devices (life jackets).

Swim with a buddy and an adult supervisor (lifeguard, parent, etc.).

Children should learn how to swim. Never allow young children to dive or jump into shallow water.

Adults should become familiar with the water current patterns if swimming in rivers, streams, or oceans.

Look for more interesting information on the following websites:

www.pbs.org

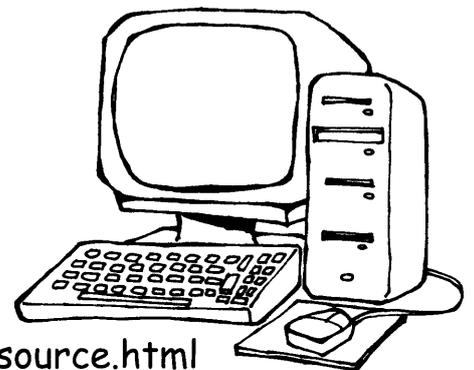
www.safekids.org

www.smokeybear.com

www.roadsafety.net/EDUCATIONRESOURCES/educresource.html

www.firebooks.com

www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/



Thematic Literature List

- Boelts, Maribeth. **A Kid's Guide to Staying Safe Around Fire**, Kid's Library of Personal Safety Series. Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1997
- Boelts, Maribeth. **A Kid's Guide to Staying Safe on Bikes**, Kid's Library of Personal Safety Series. Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1997
- Boelts, Maribeth. **A Kid's Guide to Staying Safe on The Streets**, Kid's Library of Personal Safety Series. Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1997
- Boelts, Maribeth. **A Kid's Guide to Staying Safe Around Water**, Kid's Library of Personal Safety Series. Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1997
- Bourgeois, Paulette. **Fire Fighters, In My Neighborhood Series**. Kids Can Press Limited, 2000
- Maass, Robert. **Fire Fighters**. Scholastic, Inc., 1989
- Mattern, Joanne. **Safety In The Water, Safety First Series**. ABDO Publishing Co., 1999
- Raatma, Lucia. **Crawl Low Under Smoke, Fire Safety Series**. Capstone Press, Inc., 1999
- Raatma, Lucia. **Smoke Detectors, Fire Safety Series**. Capstone Press, Inc., 1999
- Raatma, Lucia. **Safety Around Fire, Safety First Series**. Capstone Press, Inc., 1999
- Raatma, Lucia. **Safety At The Swimming Pool, Safety First Series**. Capstone Press, Inc., 1999
- Rey, H.A. and Margret. **Curious George At The Fire Station**. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1985
- Thomas, Jeana. **How Louie Became A Safety Swimmer: Water Safety, Camp of Champs Series**. Charm Publications, Inc., 2001



Concepts & Vocabulary



fire fighters
crossing guards
emergency
life jacket

fire engine
fire hydrant
danger
helmet

police officers
smoke detector
fire extinguisher
"911"

lifeguards
hot/cold
stop/go
traffic