

Exploring Fire Safety

Preschool Classroom

Fire Safety Learning Activities

Phase 1

1 Opening Event In a large group meeting, the teacher recalled a field trip the children took in October to see the Fire Safety Awareness exhibit.	2 Brainstorm Ideas Children brainstormed ideas about fire and fire safety.	3 Categorize Ideas Teachers helped place ideas into categories directly on the chart paper.	4. Label Categories With teacher help, students made their <u>Student Topic Web I.</u>	5 Share personal memories Students shared personal experiences with fire at large group meetings.
6 Illustrate Stories Students used a variety of medium to illustrate their memory stories. They used finger paints, watercolors, chalk, and markers. Parents helped with dictation of stories. Teachers typed their stories on the computer.	7 Share Stories Students shared their stories and pictures at large group meetings. They noted similarities and differences in experiences. Teachers displayed the stories and pictures on the wall.	8 Collect Data Students developed surveys to find out what classmates already knew about fire and fire safety.	9 Represent Findings Children represented their findings using bar graphs. Students used clay and play dough to represent their memories of fire equipment.	10. Articulate Questions Teachers and students wondered about fire and fire safety. Where were smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in their homes? What type of equipment did fire fighters use? What can catch fire?

Phase 2

11 Group Planning Students began exploring fire	12 Make Predictions Before each guest speaker	13 Engaging in Field Study Students collected data	14 Debrief Students shared their findings at large group	15 Create Representations Students represented their
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safety in three groups to answer their main questions. They decided they needed to ask some fire fighters about their equipment. They also needed to go to a fire station.	visited, the children articulated questions and formed predictions about their responses. Before each field study, students made predictions about what they would see and find on their field study.	to answer their questions about fire safety. The teachers invited fire fighters, and other experts into the class. One group of students toured the building to locate fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. Teachers also planned a trip to the local fire department.	meetings. They compared their findings to their predictions.	findings with constructions, clay models, paintings, and graphic organizers.
16 Share At large group meetings, students shared their progress on their surveys, representations and experiments. Classmates offered suggestions for refinement.	17 Plans for Visiting Expert Students formulated questions for the expert and the teacher documented what students thought the experts would say to answer their questions.	18 Expert Visitor Three fire fighters visited the school and shared new knowledge about fires and fire safety. Children held and examined fire equipment closely.	19 Debrief Students compared experts' answers to their predictions. They made observational drawings of fire extinguishers and other tools that the fire experts brought to share with them.	20 Continuing Investigation Students experimented. For example, they observed what happened to a lit candle under a glass globe when the teacher put a lid on the globe.

Phase 3

21 Representations Students created many 3-dimensional representations	22 Articulating what students have learned The whole group discussed what they had	23 Brainstorm Second Web Students brainstormed what they	24 Label and Categorize Ideas With the teachers, the students	25 Plan for sharing Students brainstormed ideas for the culminating
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of fire equipment including smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and fire trucks.	learned about fire and fire safety. The teacher asked individual children to respond to what they had learned.	now know about fire.	categorized what they knew about fire and developed the <u>Student Fire Topic Web II</u> .	activity. They wanted to share the fire truck, books that they created about fire, and two iMovies that depicted what they knew about fire fighters.
26 Project Highlights Students made a representation of a house with fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. A small group of students role-played a fire call and the teacher videotaped and edited their fire call into an iMovie. Another group of students wrote and acted a play that involved fire fighters. The teacher filmed the play and made that into an iMovie.	27 Imaginative Activity Students used the dramatic playroom as a fire station. Everyone had fun going on fire calls. Teachers supported literacy by writing down what children dictated to her about the fire call. Other students wrote creative stories about fire.	28 Display Students contributed their representation of the fire truck and a house for display. Teachers placed their stories, graphs, and pictures on the walls. Teachers also displayed the reports of the “fire calls.”	29 Culmination Parents gathered in the room to hear the <i>Chicago Fire Song</i> , and <u>safety tips from students</u> . Then they toured the room to read the displays. The open house concluded with a special showing of the two iMovies.	30 Evaluation The teacher videotaped students sharing their new knowledge about fire safety. <u>Students and parents</u> reflected on the project by responding to a questionnaire. Teachers examined <u>students’ project portfolios</u> to assess growth and learning.