

Lesson 5

TELL A GROWN-UP IF YOU SEE MATCHES AND LIGHTERS

Teacher Information

Teach young children about the risks of touching hot items. Things that get hot can cause serious burns. Burn injuries hurt and take a long time to heal. Preschoolers need to be able to identify items that are hot and sometimes hot. Children should learn to stay away from anything that can get hot.

Matches and lighters can get hot. Children should be taught safe actions if they find these items: Tell an adult and never touch. Young children playing with matches and lighters cause many fires, deaths, and injuries each year. Matches and lighters should be locked in a cabinet, out of the reach of children.

Teaching Points

- Stay away from hot things. Don't touch them.
- Do not touch matches or lighters. Matches and lighters are dangerous and can be hot.
- Walk away and tell an adult if you find matches or lighters.
- Only adults should use matches and lighters.

Objectives

Each child will be able to:

- act in a safe manner around matches and lighters.
- identify situations related to hot items that require adult help.

Materials

- Teddy bears or a stuffed animal for each child
- Flash cards of hot and cool items
- *Matches and Lighters* MP3 file (*optional*)
- MP3 player and speakers (*optional*)

Procedure

Hook (4-5 Minutes)

1. Bring the children to the rug and ask them to bring their teddy bears. Tell the children they will have a chance to teach their bears what they have learned about hot things.
2. Use the flash cards of hot and cool items from Lesson 4 to review the “Stay Away from Hot Things” message. Display each flash card and ask the children to explain the correct action. Reinforce the idea that some hot things can be so dangerous that we also need to tell an adult. If children see a lighter or matches they should stay away AND tell an adult.

Body (10–11 Minutes)

3. Hold up the cards of the matches and the lighter. Remind the children that these items can be hot and dangerous. Review the safety rules related to matches and lighters and ask the children to tell their bears what to do if they find these items:
 - Stay away from hot things.
 - Walk away and tell an adult if you see matches or a lighter.
4. Share scenarios about hot items, matches, and lighters with the children. Ask volunteers to respond to the scenarios with their teddy bears to display the appropriate behaviors.

Sample Scenarios:

You and Teddy are playing in the living room. You are close to the woodstove. What should you say to Teddy? What should you do next?

You and Teddy are going outside to the swing set. You see a lighter on the ground. What should you say to Teddy? What should you do next?

You and Teddy are hungry. You go into the kitchen and you see some soup cooking on the stove. What should you say to Teddy? What should you do next?

You and Teddy are outside playing. You see a soccer ball on the ground and think it would be fun to play. What should you say to Teddy? What should you do next?

You and Teddy are at a friend's birthday party. After everyone has eaten cake, you notice your friend's mom left some matches on the table. What should you say to Teddy? What should you do next?

You and Teddy walk into the bathroom to brush your teeth. You notice a hair straightening iron sitting on the counter top. What should you say to Teddy? What should you do next?

- Discussion Questions:**
- Why do we need to be careful around hot items?
 - What is the safest thing to do if you see matches nearby?
 - What should you do if you are near something hot?



Wrap-Up (3–4 Minutes)

5. Play a responding game with the children. Explain that the teacher will hold up a picture card and say, “Hey look, it is a _____.” The teacher will fill in the blank each time with a different item, such as a cup of coffee, popsicle, lighter, toaster, apple, doll, faucet, matches, crayon, and so on. The children will respond with one of the following three statements and make the correct action:
- Stay and play (YAY! with arms waving).
 - Walk away (walk in place with arms and feet).
 - Tell an adult (walk in place with hand at mouth to call adult).

6. Review main points:

Stay away from hot things. Don't touch them.

Do not touch matches or lighters. Matches and lighters are dangerous and can be hot.

Walk away and tell an adult if you find matches or lighters.

Optional Extension Activities

- **Tell children that you will leave pictures of hot and not hot items** around the room for the next few days. You will be watching to see if they take the safe actions.
- **During storytime throughout the week**, ask the children to be on the lookout for hot and sometimes hot items in the illustrations. Encourage the children to say “I spot something hot!” when they see a hot item and follow up with a safety rule.
- **Sing the *Matches and Lighters* song** together.
- **Using the pages of a storybook**, the flashcards, or magazine images, work as a class to make a chart. Classify pages into those that have pictures of cool things only, hot and sometimes hot things, or hot things that require adult help.

Family Letter

TELL A GROWN-UP IF YOU SEE MATCHES AND LIGHTERS

Dear Family,

Our class is learning about fire safety through the *Learn Not to Burn®-Preschool* Program. Today the class continued to learn about how to be safe around hot things. The children learned matches and lighters can be dangerous and hot. If a child sees matches or lighters he or she should walk away and tell a grown-up right away. Children should never touch matches and lighters.

It is important for adults to keep matches and lighters in a locked cabinet out of the reach of children.

Please talk to your child about the importance of staying away from hot things, including matches and lighters.

Together we can keep your family safe from fire.

Sincerely,

Family Fire Safety Activity

Be Safe Around Matches and Lighters

Talk to your child about how to be safe around matches and lighters: "If you see matches or lighters, don't touch. Walk away and tell a grown-up right away."

Cut out the images of the matches and lighters on the next page and place the images around the house. Tell your child he or she will have a chance to show off what he or she has learned about being safe around matches and lighters. Tell your child to follow the safety rules for matches and lighters if they spot one of the images. Be sure to praise your child for a job well done when he or she reports a discovered picture.



Fire safety fun for families at Sparky.org!

