

Lesson 2

WHEN YOU HEAR A SMOKE ALARM, GET OUTSIDE AND STAY OUTSIDE

Teacher Information

Smoke alarms save lives. Every home needs smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home (including the basement), outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom. Most smoke alarms make a “beep, beep, beep” sound. Between each set of three beeps is a slight pause — “beep, beep, beep, pause, beep, beep, beep, pause” and so on. Some smoke alarms have a speaking voice or allow for a family member to record her or his voice in addition to the “beep, beep, beep.” Smoke alarms for people with disabilities may have a different tone, flashing lights, or a shaker under the bed pillow.

A smoke alarm senses smoke and will sound if there is smoke in the home. When a smoke alarm sounds, everyone should get outside right away.

Most likely, young children won't be home alone when a smoke alarm sounds. Parents or caregivers will assist them. However, each child must be able to identify the sound of the smoke alarm and what it means. Children also must know what to do and where to go when the alarm sounds.

Children must understand when a smoke alarm sounds or “beeps”, they should go outside immediately with the rest of the family. There is not time to stop for toys, pets, or other things. Young children are often frightened by strange, loud noises. They may freeze, hide, or respond in other inappropriate ways that could endanger their safety. Becoming familiar with the sound of a smoke alarm and knowing how to react to the sound is important for children.

Responding to Questions

Children may ask questions that are difficult to answer. Here are some frequently asked questions and recommended answers that will help them understand how to react safely.

1. “What if I have a baby brother or sister who doesn't know what to do when the smoke alarm beeps? What will happen to them?”

Tell children that the adults in the home will hear the sound and bring the baby and anyone else who needs help outside. If someone is unable to get out for some reason, it is the firefighters' job to get them outside. Reinforce that children only have one job and that is to “get outside and stay outside.”

2. “Our smoke alarm goes off sometimes when Mommy or Daddy is cooking. Should we go outside?”

Explain that when an adult is cooking and the smoke alarm sounds, he or she is there to determine if everyone should get out quickly. Adults can make this decision. If an adult says to go outside when the smoke alarm beeps, do what he or she says.

3. “What will happen to my pet (dog, cat, fish...) if I don't bring him or her outside with me?”

Children might become upset when they are told to leave their pets behind. Explain that many pets will leave the home with the family because the animal can tell there is some kind of danger. Also, comfort the children by explaining that firefighters will save pets when they can.

Teaching Points

- A smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire in your home.
- You need smoke alarms in your home.
- Most alarms make a loud “beep, beep, beep” if there is smoke.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, everyone should get outside and stay outside until an adult says it is safe to go back inside.

Objectives

Each child will be able to:

- identify the sounds of a smoke alarm.
- leave the building safely and remain outside at the sound of an alarm.

Materials

- Sound posters: dog, baby, car, fire truck, smoke alarm
- MP3 files of sounds to match posters
- Smoke alarm with a battery
- Smoke alarm song
- Posters: snoring bear, frog, smoke alarm
- Do You Have a Smoke Alarm Song (*optional*)
- Coloring page (*optional*)

Procedure

Hook (3-4 Minutes)

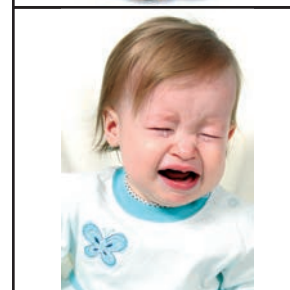
1. Introduce the lesson by discussing loud sounds.

Discussion Questions

- Who can tell us the difference between a quiet sound and a loud sound?
- Can you give an example of a quiet sound? How about a loud sound?
- Can loud sounds ever be helpful?
- Can you think of a sound that would not be helpful if it was quiet?

2. Display the five sound posters: dog, crying baby, car, fire truck, smoke alarm

Hold each poster one at a time and tell the children you will play a variety of sound clips. The children should start out standing. Ask the children to crouch down when they hear the sound that matches the poster. Reinforce the idea that some sounds need to be loud to be helpful.



Body (10–12 Minutes)

3. Show the children the smoke alarm. Tell them you are going to press the button so the alarm will make the “beep, beep, beep” sound. Warn the children about the loud noise. Ask:

- Has anyone heard this sound at home?
- How does this sound help us?
- Is it important for the smoke alarm to make a loud noise?

Explain how the sound of the smoke alarm keeps families safe by warning of smoke or fire. If you hear the “beep, beep, beep”, get outside and stay outside. Everyone should stay outside until help arrives or an adult says it is safe to go back inside.



4. Play “The Smoke Alarm Song” (1:45). Give children the pictures of the snoring bear, frog, and smoke alarm to hold. When each sound is made during the song, ask children to hold the appropriate picture up high.

After the song, review the sound the smoke alarm makes and discuss what children should do if they hear a smoke alarm.

Ask:

- What sound does a smoke alarm make?
- Why is a smoke alarm loud?
- What is your job when you hear the smoke alarm? The child’s job is to get outside and stay outside until an adult says it is safe to go back inside.



5. Share the story about Maya. Discuss how Maya reacted to the smoke alarm:

Maya was playing with her toys when the smoke alarm went beep beep beep — beep beep beep. Maya knew that meant she and her family should go outside right away. She stopped playing right away, put her toys down, and walked quickly out the door. Her mom and dad also heard the smoke alarm. They all went outside to their meeting place, which was the big tree in front of their house. They all stayed at the tree until Maya’s mom told everyone it was safe to go back inside.

Ask:

- Did Maya do the right thing when she heard the smoke alarm?
- Why is it important that Maya stopped playing right away?
- What should you do if you hear the smoke alarm at home?



Wrap Up (4–5 Minutes)

6. Show students the coloring page. Ask: *What is happening in the picture? What should the boy do? Can he bring his favorite teddy bear with him?* Have students color in the picture and the words “Get Out and Stay Out.”

7. Review main points:

The smoke alarm makes a “beep, beep, beep” sound.

When you hear the smoke alarm, get outside quickly and stay outside.

Optional Extension Activities

- **Share Sparky’s video, “What’s the Sound of the Smoke Alarm?”** See if the children can select the correct sound.
- **Play the “Do You Have a Smoke Alarm?” song.** Teach the children to sing part or all of the song. Suggest or ask students to suggest names of other people to use in the song (grandmother, auntie, another teacher). Ask students to share the song at home and ask parents to test the alarm and make sure everyone in the home knows the “beep, beep, beep” sound.
- **Have children demonstrate the “Get Outside and Stay Outside” action** with “let’s pretend” scenarios about being at home sleeping and a smoke alarm sounds.
 - Let’s pretend you are playing with blocks. You hear “beep, beep, beep.” What should you do?
 - Let’s pretend you are sleeping in your bed. You hear “beep, beep, beep.” What should you do?

**SMOKE ALARM INFORMATION FOR ADULTS**

Working smoke alarms save lives. Make sure your home has enough smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound. Test all smoke alarms monthly. Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years.

Family Letter

SMOKE ALARMS ARE IMPORTANT

Dear Family,

Our class is learning about fire safety. Today the children learned to get outside and stay outside when they hear a smoke alarm. Your child learned to identify the “beep beep beep” sound of a smoke alarm and its important role in keeping us safe from a fire. We discussed how important it is to get outside when the smoke alarm sounds and go to your outside meeting place.

Please talk to you child about the importance of smoke alarms in your home.

Together we can keep your family safe from fire.

Sincerely,

More information for parents and teachers can be found at nfa.org/safetytips.



Family Fire Safety Activity

What's that sound?

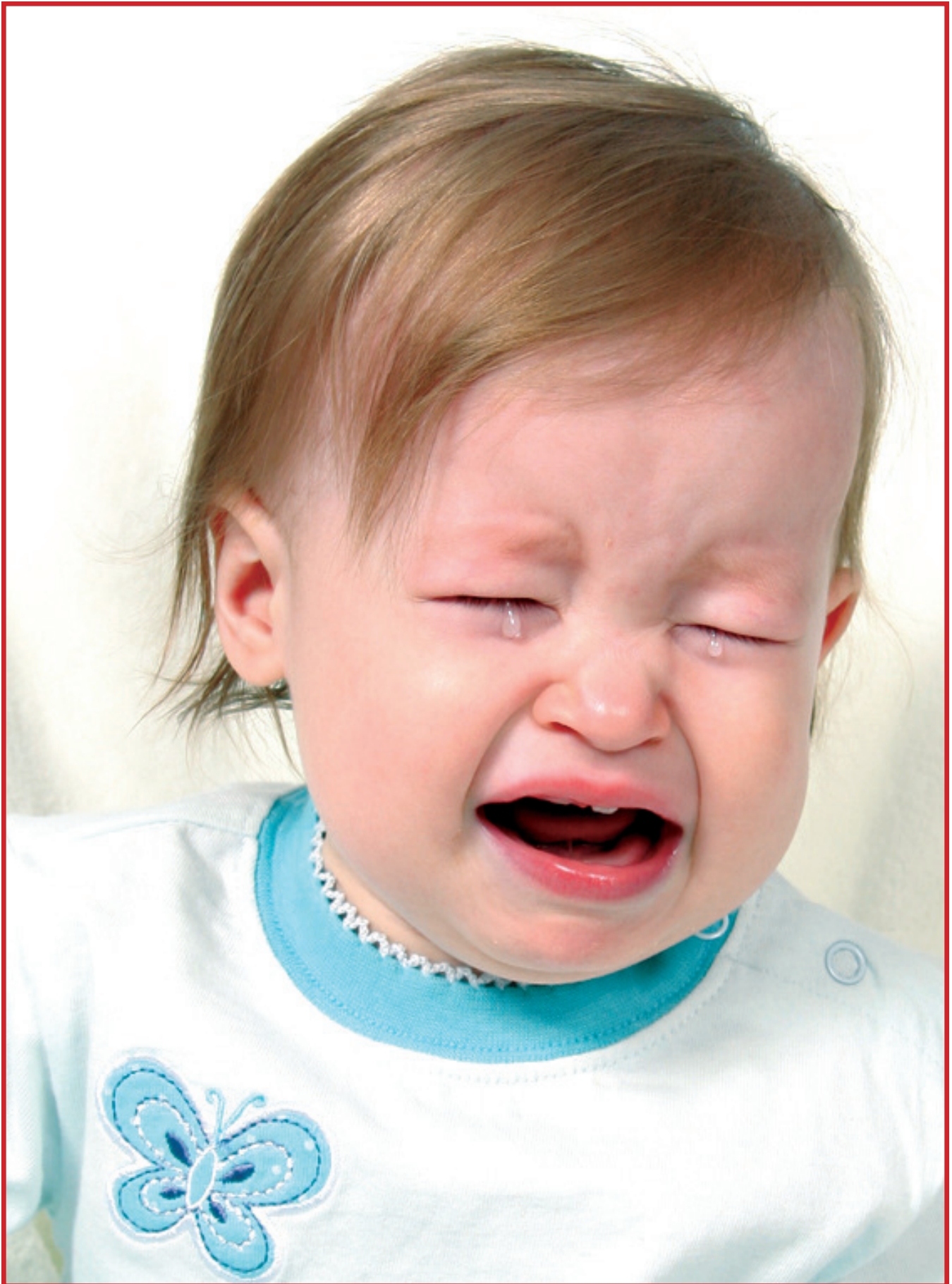
- Find a smoke alarm in your home.
- Point to the alarm and ask your child to tell you the sound the smoke alarm makes.
- Push the smoke alarm button so you can hear the sound.
- Have your child explain what to do if the smoke alarm sounds. Your child should tell you to get outside and stay outside until an adult says it is safe to go back inside.
- Take your child outside and show her or him your family meeting place. The meeting place should be a safe place away from the building where everyone can go when the smoke alarm sound such as a tree, a neighbor's porch, or mailbox.
- Explain to your child that he or she should wait at the meeting place until help arrives or until a grown-up says it is safe to go inside.



Fire safety fun for families at Sparky.org!

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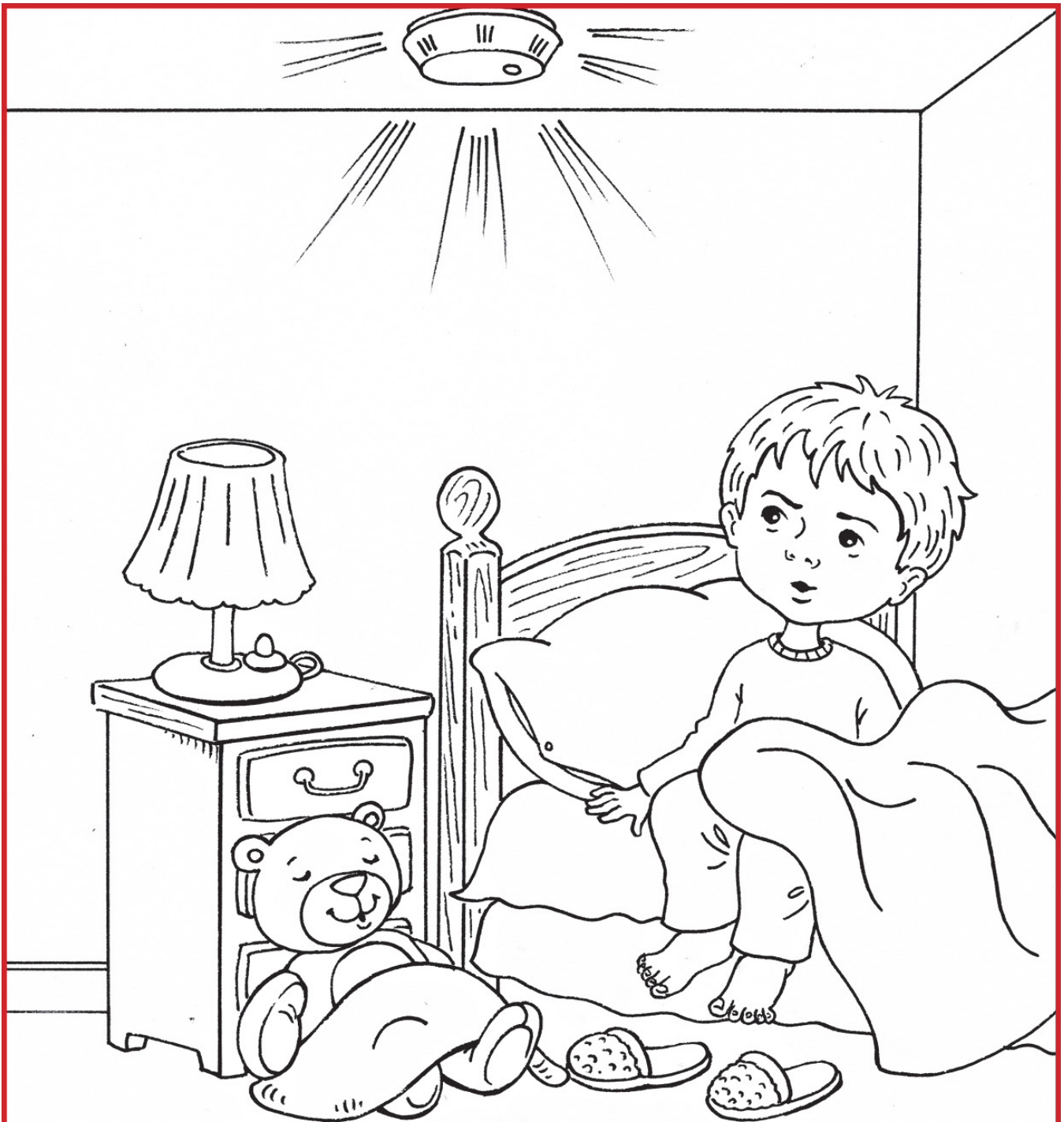












Get out &
Stay out