

# Checklist

## Matches and lighters

- Have you removed temptation?  
*Placing matches and lighters out of sight helps reduce the desire and opportunity for children and young people to use them.*
- Have both family members and visitors secured their matches/lighters?
- Have you reduced and kept track of the matches/lighters you use?

## Smoke alarms

- Do you have a sufficient number of smoke alarms?  
*Queensland Fire and Emergency Services recommend smoke alarms are located on each level of living space; outside each bedroom; and in every bedroom*
- Are your smoke alarms working?  
*Check smoke alarms are working by pressing the test button. If no sound check the battery and replace if necessary. Keep them clean of dust and debris.*



## Supervision

- Are you aware of the times when your child is involved in fire play?  
*Minimise opportunities for fireplay by ensuring your child is supervised by a responsible person at these times.*
- Do you know what your child is looking at on the internet?  
*Monitor internet usage.*

## Escape Plan

- Do you have a home escape plan?  
*Draw your escape plan on a sheet of paper. Try to have two ways out of every room. Pick a meeting place outside the home, such as your letterbox. Practise your fire escape plan regularly - at night, with the light off, standing and crawling.*
- Have you practised your home escape plan?  
*Smoke can be disorientating. The speed of fire and the toxicity of smoke means you don't have time to think. The sound of a smoke alarm can create a surge of adrenalin which may cause panic. You are less likely to panic if you have practised your escape plan.*



**If your child is involved in more advanced fireplay (e.g. bomb making), ring your local fire station now.**



Helping children and young people develop fire safe skills.

Information for parents and carers.



If you have any concerns about your child's involvement with fire, contact your local fire station, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit [www.qfes.qld.gov.au/fff](http://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/fff).



## Should I be worried about my child's interest in fire?

Most children at some stage will be curious about fire. However, this curiosity can become risky if it leads to unsupervised play with matches or lighters; lighting fires; or experimenting with homemade bombs and aerosol cans. Sometimes, fire play or fire setting can also be a sign that the child is worried about something and may need additional help.

## What are warning signs?

These signs can include:

- finding matches or lighters in your child's room, pockets or bags
- burn marks on toys, clothes, under beds or in cubby houses
- the smell of something burnt
- intense interest in, or conversations about, fire
- internet searches for fire related topics including homemade bombs

## What can I do now?

You can take immediate action to reduce the risks of fireplay by:

- explaining to your child that fire is not a toy, but instead is a tool used by responsible adults.
- teaching your children, if they find matches or lighters, to immediately hand them to adults or tell an adult if they see another child playing with matches and lighter.
- using the checklist on this brochure to increase your family's safety.
- contacting Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to request the Fight Fire Fascination program.



## Key features

- ✓ FFF is available to children and young people aged between 3 and 17 who have been involved in at least 1 concerning fire incident.
- ✓ It is a voluntary program initiated by a parent, caregiver or by a young person able to give consent.
- ✓ It is free and confidential.
- ✓ It is delivered by two carefully selected and trained operational firefighters.
- ✓ It is delivered in the home of the child/young person.
- ✓ It is an educational program, designed to teach children and young people to respect fire and develop fire safety skills.
- ✓ The program has a carefully designed standard '3 visit plus celebration' structure; with flexibility to respond to the needs and circumstances of each child and family.
- ✓ The program works in partnership with schools, mental health services and other community agencies to ensure children and families get the help they need.



## Does it work?

Research shows that more than 90% of children who go through the FFF program do not continue with unsafe fire behaviour.

## How do parents describe how FFF has changed their child?

*"Hasn't touched matches again"*

*"Understands the dangers now"*

*"Respects fire more"*

*"More mature and understands more about fire safety"*

*"Won't touch lighters anymore"*

## What do parents have to say about the firefighters who visit their homes?

*"They spoke with the kids in their language"*

*"They were honest and didn't judge. They were friendly and open"*

*"They made my child realise their action towards other people"*

*"Great information"*