



Lesson 2 – Home Fire Hazards

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Home Fire Hazards

There is a range of hazards and potential fire hazards in all homes. The kitchen is the room where most hazards exist and most fires in the home are related to cooking. Fire hazards in the kitchen may include cooking appliances, electricity, gas and combustibles like paper, oils, chemicals, overcooked food. In a bedroom a fire can start from electrical appliances, candles, charging devices, portable heaters and other combustibles like bedding, curtains, paper.

Children need to be aware of and able to recognise sources of heat. Knowing that heat sources can cause fire even when there is no flame is an important concept. Heat sources can also cause burns.

Adults are responsible for removing hazards, but children can identify them and ask adults for help. If they see a bad fire, children should ask an adult for help.

Matches and Lighters need to be treated separately from other hazards. They can be a source of fascination and experimentation for young children. Children should leave them where they are and should ask an adult to remove them and put them out of reach e.g. (locked up/in a cupboard/somewhere up high), rather than taking the matches/lighters to an adult.

For more information on reducing home fire hazards go to:

[Home Fire Prevention \(frv.vic.gov.au\)](http://frv.vic.gov.au)

Essential Question

- How can we recognise safe and unsafe uses of fire and heat sources in our homes?

Key Understandings

- There are many causes of fires in homes e.g. cooking, electricity, heating, matches, smoking
- Fires can start in a variety of locations in homes including the kitchen and bedrooms
- We are all responsible for home fire prevention and people can do many things to prevent fires occurring in homes

Lesson Steps

SORTING CARDS

Display the 14 '**HOT OR 'NOT' SORTING CARDS (pdf)** as posters or as onscreen images one at a time.

Ask: *Which of these are hot and which are not?*

HOT

steam from kettle, pot on stove, toaster, iron, heater, BBQ, cup of tea, lit match and lighter

NOT

soccer ball, book, pencil case, ice cream, bike helmet, skateboard,

Place cards in two columns on board as students decide or use an interactive sorting activity for IWB with the 14 items that the class works together to sort into 'hot' or 'not'.

- *What are some other things in your homes that that could be hot to touch?*
- *What could happen if you touched or got too close to the 'hot' things?*

Describe how useful hot things around the home can also hurt. Remind children to be careful near hot things.

Kitchen and Bedroom Fire Hazards

CLASS DISCUSSION -

Discuss the following scenarios one at a time.

- many power cords plugged into a wall socket
- candles too close to a curtain
- matches and lighter within easy reach of children
- clothes too close to a heater

Questions

- *What could happen here?*
- *Is this safe or unsafe/dangerous?*

These are "Fire Hazards". A Fire Hazard is dangerous, it can cause fires.

CLASS DISCUSSION – KITCHEN FIRE HAZARDS

Discuss the kitchen as the room where most home fires start. Kitchens have many fire hazards.

- *Why do you think fires start in kitchens?*
- *What might start a fire in a kitchen?* Include cooking appliances, electricity, gas, any flammable items like paper, oils, chemicals, overcooked food, etc

SHOW VIDEO: [Home Fire Hazards](#)



- Pause on the first image of the kitchen (pot and pan handles turned out).
- Ask students to suggest ways to make it safe.
- Discuss and reinforce by referring to the suggestion that appears on the fridge. Repeat for all 7 kitchen hazards.

Pause the video after discussion of kitchen hazards completed.

Possible Comments/Questions:

- *What are these? Are they hazards or are they safe?*
- *What could be done to get rid of these hazards safely?*
- *Who should help with making it safe.*

(Create an ongoing Word Wall of the vocabulary explored and used during this unit. - see notes re Word Wall in previous lesson)

CLASS DISCUSSION – BEDROOM FIRE HAZARDS

Discuss that sometimes fires start in other rooms in the house including the bedroom

Restart the video and Pause on the first image of the bedroom.

Ask students to suggest ways to make it safe.

Discuss and reinforce by referring to the suggestion that appears on the wall.

Prompt the class to identify the hazards/dangers. Point to the hazards on the screen as they are identified. Discuss overloaded powerpoints, heating, candles, devices, chargers, matches, lighters, etc.

CLASS DISCUSSION – MATCHES AND LIGHTERS

- *Where do you think matches and lighters should be kept when they don't need to be used?*
- *Are matches and lighters toys? Can they be played with?*
- *What can you do if you see someone playing with matches? (Tell them to stop and tell an adult straight away).*

PICTURE

On A4 sheet, ask students to draw a picture of either a fire hazard in the kitchen or bedroom and write a short explanation explaining how to make it safe.

Students should use words from the Word Wall and include the hazards and safety strategies discussed.

POSTERS - Small Group (2-4 students) activity.

Create a series of large posters with **home fire hazard slogans** for display in prominent places around the school.

Brainstorm different fire hazard themes and slogans with class before breaking into small groups to create posters eg

Cooking - *Keep Looking When Cooking*

Electricity - *Don't Overload Power Points or Use and Charge Your Devices on Hard Surfaces*

Heating - *Turn Off Heaters Before You Go to Sleep*

Candles – *Keep Lit Candles At Least 1 Metre Away from Anything That Can Burn*

Matches and Lighters - *Keep Matches and Lighters Out of Reach of Children*

Cigarettes – *Do Not Smoke In Bed!*

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

HOME VIDEOS AND PHOTOS

Each student records a short video showing a fire safe area or practice at their home, eg, fire with a fire guard, saucepan with handle turned in, matches stored up high, a power point with only one appliance plugged in.

OR

Each student takes a photo of an adult family member involved in a fire safe practice in their house, eg cooking with the pot handles turned inwards, blowing out a candle or turning off a heater before going to bed, charging a phone or tablet on a desk.

Add a caption to each photo/video that describes the safe practice.

Students could send photos and videos to teacher via e-mail or add to an online gallery in Seesaw/Google Slides, other?

Teacher compiles photos to create a hardcopy or onscreen montage of '*Fire safety in the Home*'.