

Fire Procedure

As a registered childminder I have to meet the requirements of Ofsted and Cleveland Fire Authority with regard to the fire safety needs of the children in my care. I know with even the best fire preventions fires can start unexpectedly and therefore everybody in my care needs to know what to do should an event take place. I have therefore put together the following preventions, procedures and policies.

Fire Prevention

- I do not allow children in the kitchen whilst I am cooking unless closely supervised
- I do not fry chips
- I keep the cooker clean of grease
- I keep the toaster clean
- I keep tea towels, kitchen roll and electric cables away from hot appliances
- I make sure that electrical sockets, plugs and wiring is in good condition
- I make sure my plugs are correctly fused
- I do not overload sockets and try to keep to one plug-one socket
- I don't trail electrical cables across or under carpets
- When using extension cables I full unwind the cable from the drum
- I keep matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children and away from heat sources
- I teach children to show me any matches or lighters they find
- I make sure anyone who uses matches or lighters in front of children does so in a safe way
- I read 'Frances the Firefly' to the children
- I do not use portable heaters except in emergencies
- I fix a secure guard around fires and heaters
- I ensure fires and heaters are off or safe when not required
- I keep aerosols in dry conditions away from heat sources
- I keep combustibles away from the electrical mains
- I do not use candles in the presence of children (unless on a cake!!)

Fire Procedure

If I discover a fire in my home I will keep calm and act quickly. I will immediately alert everyone in my home by calling FIRE. I will gather all the children together and evacuate my home immediately, in a sensible and calm manner without running, leaving through the safest exit point. If we have to move through smoke we will stay close together and keep low at all times. I will assemble the children in the driveway and check they are all present and safe before ringing the Fire Brigade on 999. No-one will re-enter the house until I am told it is safe to do so.

Fire Policy

I will undertake regular fire drills, practising these on a monthly basis and whenever I have a new child in my care. These are logged and can be inspected at any time.

I do have smoke alarms fitted, these are shown on the diagram of my home, and these will be tested on a monthly basis.

I will vacuum my smoke alarms on a six monthly basis.

I have a fire blanket in my kitchen, and I know how to use it.

I know the fire blanket could be used to contain a small fire to gain time to escape.

I know it is far more important to evacuate the children and ensure their safety than to fight the fire.

I keep my hall, landing, stairs and exits clear of obstructions and tripping hazards.

When I use a stair gate I ensure an adult can quickly move it if necessary.

I keep the keys to the front and back door hung on hooks next to them to make sure the doors can be opened quickly.