Preschool Fire Safety Lesson Plan #3

3-5 year olds

Goals for Visit:

- Teach that matches and lighters can get hot and can hurt children. Children should tell a grown-up immediately whenever they find either.
- Instruct the children to identify hot things that can hurt and to not touch them.
- Teach the correct first-aid procedure for minor burns.

Lesson Plan:

- Introduce firefighters and describe what you will be covering with the children.
- Brainstorm with the children about things in the school/daycare or at home that they are not allowed to touch because they might get hurt.
- Explain that matches and lighters fall into this group and why. Matches and lighters are tools, not toys. They are only to be used by adults.
- One by one, have the children pretend to find matches or lighters. Ask each, "What would you do now?" Praise correct answers.
- Have students think about some things that are hot or can get hot when used (matches, the stove, birthday candles).
- Explain that things that are hot can hurt or burn them. Instruct the children to stay away from these things.
- Instruct the students to cool a burn with cool running water for 10 minutes and to tell a grown-up about the burn.

Important Notices:

- Children at this age absorb information very quickly, but tend to confuse the "Do's" and the "Don'ts." Try to avoid telling students information in the negative form.

Example: Negative--"If you find a fire in your house, don't hide in the closet and don't hide under the bed." Positive--"If you find a fire in your house, you must stay low and get out as quickly as possible."

- If possible, have the teacher or group leader place nametags on the children. Being able to call a child by his or her name is a way to keep good attention and makes you seem more reliable and trustworthy.
- Children at this age have very short attention spans. Keep the time "lecturing" to them short and try to allow them activities where movement is included.