

# Smoke Alarms Are Important

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify the sound of a smoke alarm.
- Sequence the four important things to do when responding to the sound of a smoke alarm.

## Materials

- Working smoke alarm or the smoke alarm sound file
- Picture of smoke alarm (if you do not have a working smoke alarm)
- Fire Safety Action Steps worksheet
- Illustration Cards



## Teacher Information

Smoke alarms save lives. Every home needs working smoke alarms.

They should be installed on every level of the home (including the basement), outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom. A smoke alarm makes 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.

## Teaching Points

- A smoke alarm will let people know if there is a fire in their home.
- Every home needs working smoke alarms.
- If there is smoke, the smoke alarm will make a loud “beep, beep, beep.”
- Make sure there is a smoke alarm where people sleep so they will be able to wake up quickly and get outside. Everyone must be able to hear the “beep, beep, beep” of the smoke alarm wherever they sleep.
- Here are the four important things to do if the smoke alarm sounds:
  1. Stop what you are doing.
  2. Choose the best way out of the room.
  3. Get outside quickly.
  4. Go to your outside meeting place.

## Procedure

1. Begin the lesson by asking the students what they know about smoke alarms and whether they have ever seen or heard one before. Allow them to share their experiences or thoughts.
2. Show the students a smoke alarm and tell them that smoke alarms are incredibly important because they save lives by alerting people if there is a fire. Explain to the students that a smoke alarm senses smoke and therefore can alert them if there is a fire. Tell the students that you will be testing the smoke alarm for them to hear and that they should listen for a loud “beep, beep, beep, pause, beep, beep, beep, pause” sound. If the smoke alarm is working, test it for the students to hear. If you do not have a working smoke alarm, you can play the sound from [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org) or use a picture of a smoke alarm.  
\*Play the sound of the smoke alarm on a lower volume or say “BEEP, BEEP, BEEP” for those sensitive to sounds.
3. Tell the students that it is important not only to know what a smoke alarm sounds like and means, it is important to know what to do next. Explain that there are four important things to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Encourage students to think about what they should do if a smoke alarm sounds and think about each action they would take.



# Kids

Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA

# Smoke Alarms Are Important

4. Use the illustration cards and discuss the four important things to do if the smoke alarm makes the “BEEP, BEEP, BEEP” sound:
1. STOP what you are doing. Get up and walk.
  2. CHOOSE the best way out of the room. Each room should have at least 2 ways out.
  3. GET outside quickly.
  4. GO to your outside meeting place.

Distribute a set of illustration cards to each student. Have students work in pairs to discuss each illustration and what it is telling them about responding to the sound of the smoke alarm.

\*This can also be done as a class. Have each student put the cards in correct order. Have the students turn to a partner and discuss the order of their cards. Students can write 1 through 4 on the cards to help put the steps in order.

5. Have students work as a class or on their own to complete the Fire Safety Action Steps worksheet. The students must include all four important things in the correct order but can phrase them in their own words. If you like, you can record the following four things on chart paper or project them onto a screen.

The four important things to do if the smoke alarm sounds are:

1. Stop what you are doing. Get up and walk.
2. Choose the best way out of the room.
3. Get outside quickly.
4. Go to your outside meeting place.

Upon completion, the students can take the action steps home to share with their families. As the students practice the steps with their families, they can place a checkmark in each box to show that all four steps have been followed.

6. Inform the class that it is important to do these four things when a smoke alarm goes off, no matter where they are. Explain that it is very important to have a smoke alarm on every level of the house and where people sleep in case a fire happens at night. Ask the class why they think it is important to have a smoke alarm where they sleep. If necessary, guide the discussion to reinforce that a smoke alarm should be where people sleep so it can wake them up quickly and that people must be able to hear the “beep, beep, beep” wherever they sleep. Remind students that for smoke alarms to be able to do the important job of keeping people safe, they must be in all these necessary places.

## Guided Practice

Provide examples of different sounds (e.g., doorbell, car horn, telephone ring) and ask the students to identify whether they are similar or different from the sound of a smoke alarm.

## Independent Practice

Assign the students an activity where they draw or write about what they would do if they heard a smoke alarm at home. They should include the steps to respond and describe the sound they would expect to hear.

## Closing

- Ask the students to share their drawings or written responses with the class.
- Summarize the key points discussed throughout the lesson, emphasizing the sound of a smoke alarm and the appropriate action steps.
- Conduct a brief review activity, such as a quick quiz or a game where students must identify the sound of a smoke alarm from different audio clips.

## Optional Extension Activities

- Have any students who finish early create their own escape plans or design posters promoting fire safety.
- Watch Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety on [SparkySchoolHouse.org](https://www.sparkyschoolhouse.org) and play the Kahoot! game (trivia style questions).
- **Educator idea:** Create the Fire Safety Anchor Chart and either display it in the classroom as a constant reminder for students or keep it on a poster board if it needs to be portable.



# Kids

Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA

## Smoke Alarms Are Important

Dear Family,

Our class is learning about fire safety. Today we learned “Smoke Alarms Are Important.” Your child learned to identify the sound of a smoke alarm and its important role in keeping us safe from a fire. We discussed how important it is to have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside each sleeping room. Everyone in the home must be able to hear the smoke alarm if they are asleep. We discussed how important it is to get outside when the smoke alarm sounds and go to your outside meeting place.

Your child learned the four important things to do if the smoke alarms sounds:

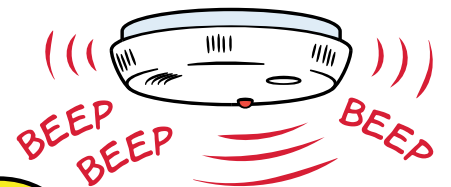
1. Stop what you are doing. Get up and walk.
2. Choose the best way out of the room.
3. Get outside quickly.
4. Go to your outside meeting place.

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

Together we can keep your family safe from fire.

Sincerely,

---



### Family Fire Safety Activity

As a family, review the four important things to do when responding to the sound of a smoke alarm. Together, complete the Family Fire Safety Activity. These mixed-up pictures show the four important things to do if the smoke alarm makes the “BEEP, BEEP, BEEP” sound. Number them in the right order. Hang on the refrigerator and review each month when a grown-up tests the smoke alarms.



Visit [Sparky.org](https://www.sparky.org) for free games, videos, and activities!



**Kids**

**Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org**

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA

# Fire Safety Action Steps

## Smoke Alarms Are Important

1.

---

---

---

---

---

2.

---

---

---

---

---

3.

---

---

---

---

---

4.

---

---

---

---

---



**Kids**

Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA

# Family Fire Safety Activity

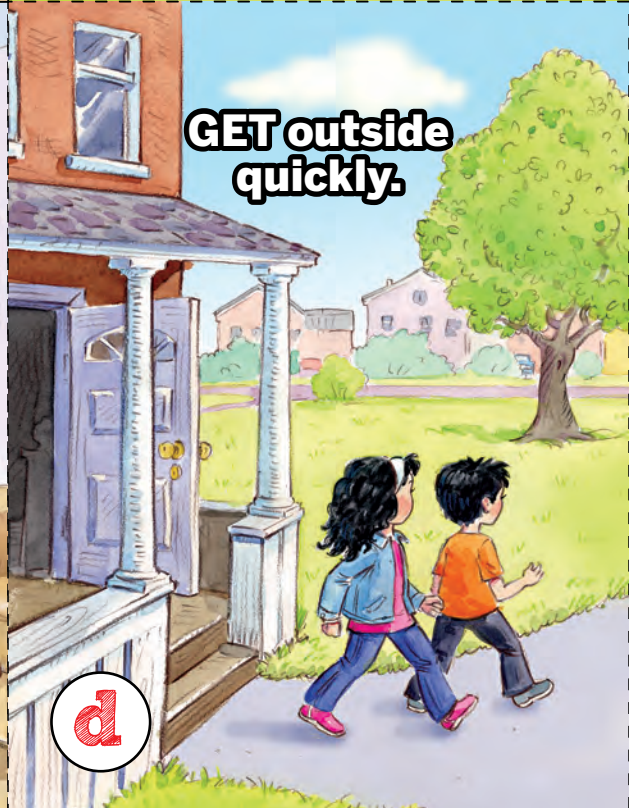
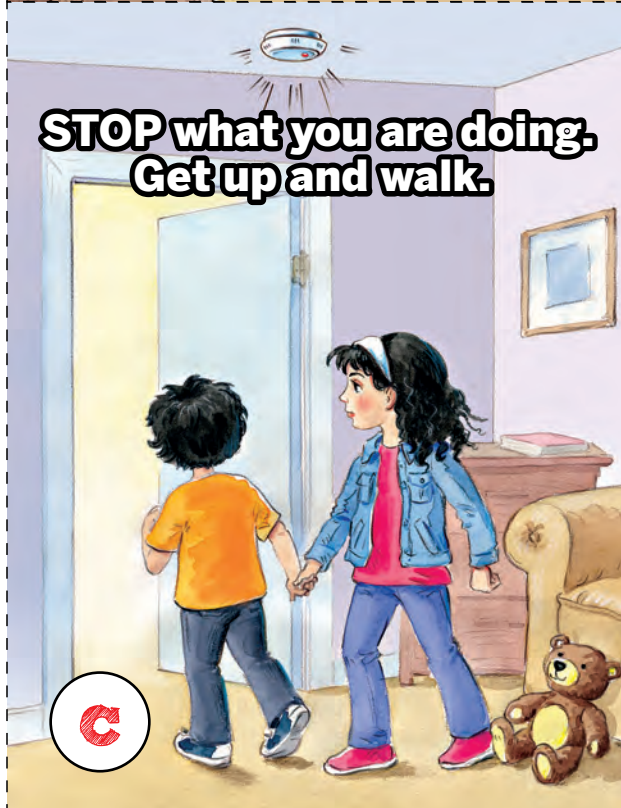
These mixed-up pictures show the four important things to do if the smoke alarm makes the BEEP, BEEP, BEEP sound. **Number them in the right order.**

1 = \_\_\_\_\_

2 = \_\_\_\_\_

3 = \_\_\_\_\_

4 = \_\_\_\_\_



Answer Key: 1 = c, 2 = a, 3 = d, 4 = b

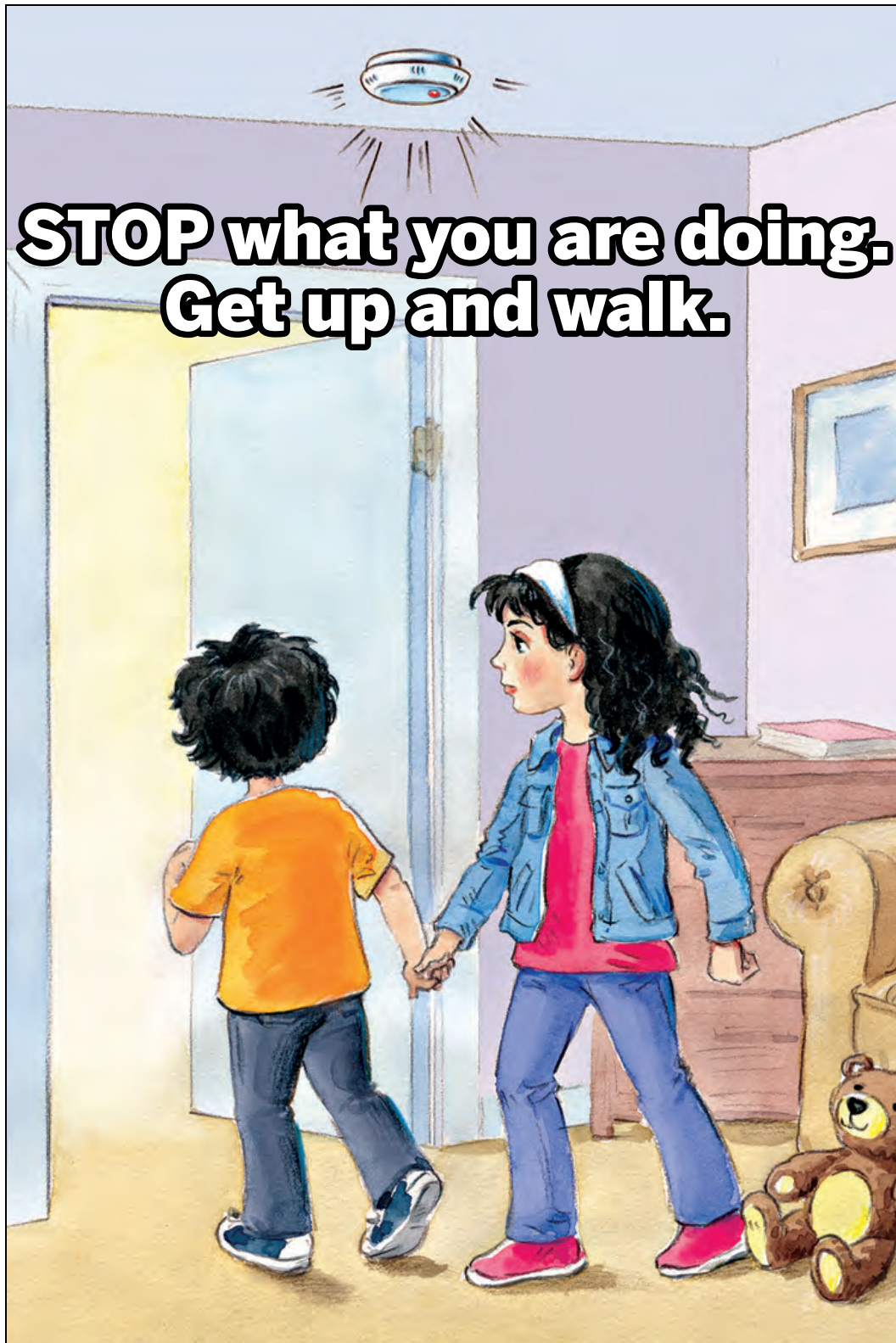


**Kids**

Visit [www.Sparky.org](http://www.Sparky.org) • [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA. © 2024 National Fire Protection Association

**Smoke Alarms** Are Important

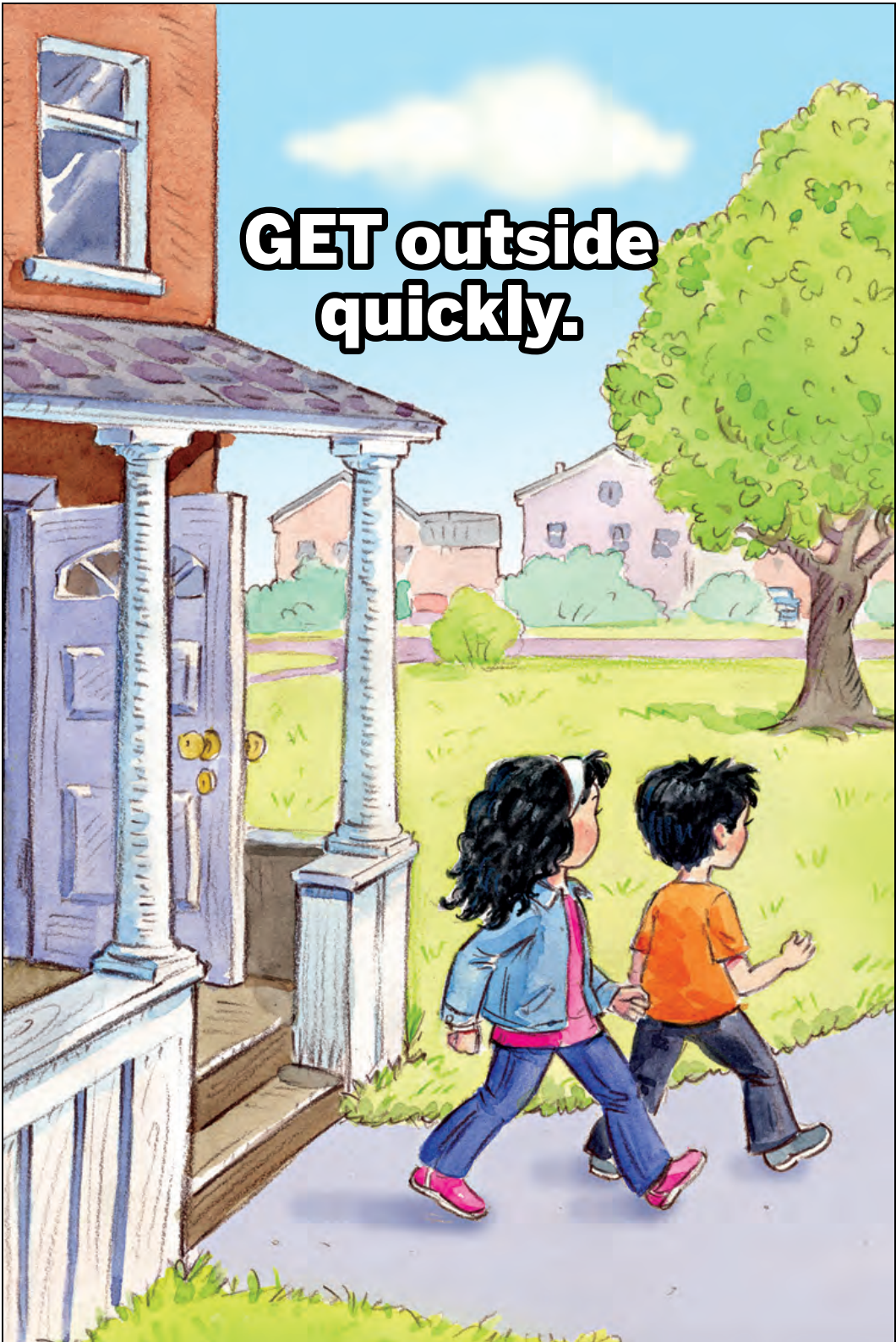


**Kids**

Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA

**Smoke Alarms** Are Important



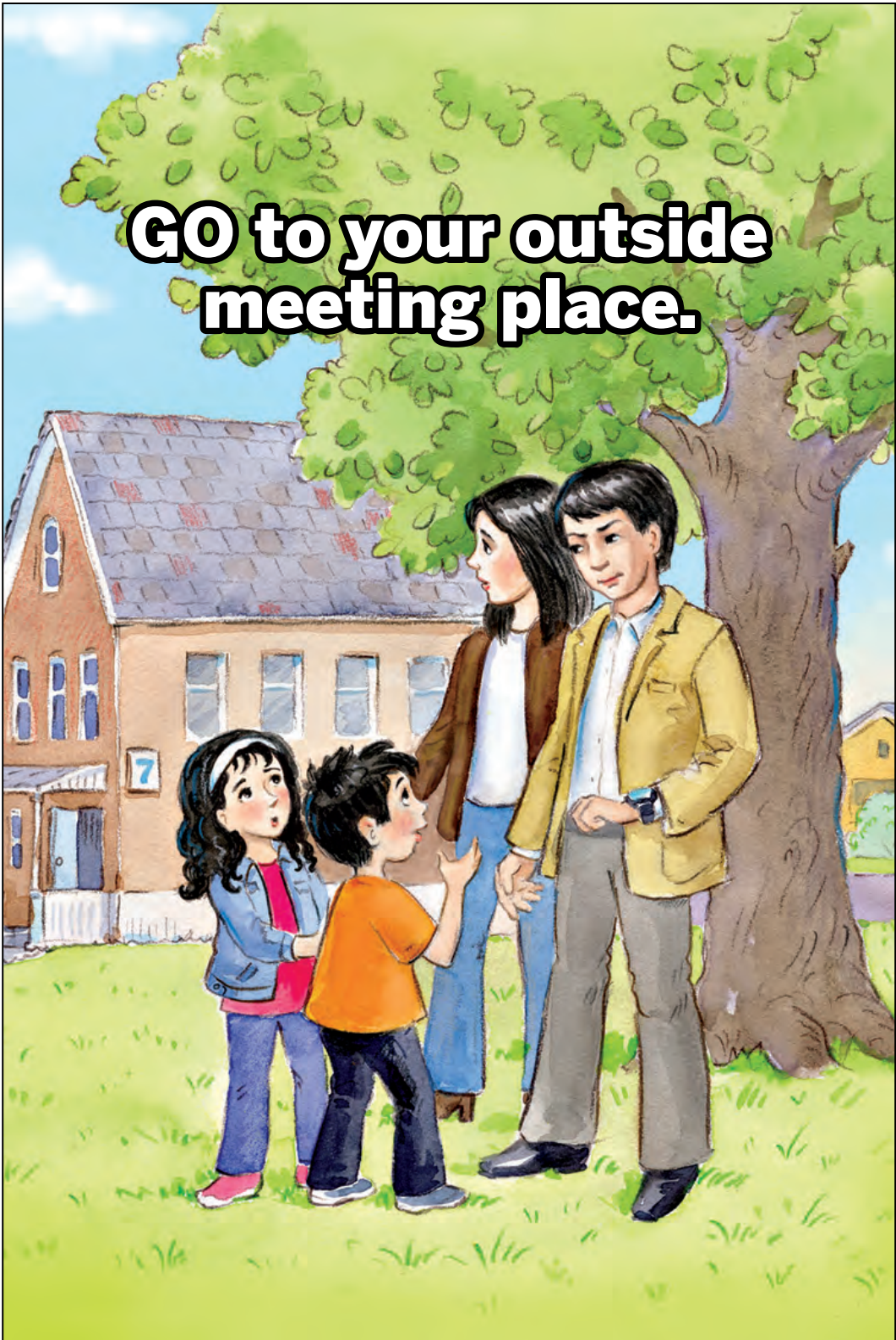
**Kids**

[Sparky.org](https://www.sparky.org) • [SparkySchoolHouse.org](https://www.sparkyschoolhouse.org)

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA

**Smoke Alarms** Are Important

**GO to your outside meeting place.**



**Kids**

**Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org**

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA



# Smoke Alarms Are Important



**Kids**

Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org  
Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA

# Smoke Alarms Are Important



**Kids**

Sparky.org • SparkySchoolHouse.org  
Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA, Quincy, MA. © 2024 NFPA