

# Smoke Alarms Are Important

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify the sound of a smoke alarm.
- Explain what to do if the smoke alarm sounds—get outside and stay outside.

## Materials

- Working smoke alarm or the smoke alarm sound file
- Picture of smoke alarm (if you do not have a working smoke alarm)
- Pictures of things that make noise (optional)

## 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. Most smoke alarms make 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.

A smoke alarm senses smoke. It will sound if there is smoke in the home. When a smoke alarm sounds, everyone should get outside right away.

Children must understand when a smoke alarm sounds or “beeps,” they and their families should go outside immediately. There is not time to stop for toys, pets, or other things. Young children are often frightened by strange, loud noises. They may freeze, hide, or respond in other ways that could endanger their safety.

It is important for children to become familiar with the sound of a smoke alarm and know how to react when they hear it.

## Teaching Points

- A smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire in your home.
- You need working smoke alarms in your home.
- It will make a loud “beep, beep, beep,” if there is smoke.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, everyone should get outside and stay outside until an adult says it is safe to go back inside.

## Procedure

1. Introduce the lesson by discussing loud sounds.

### Discussion Questions:

- Who can tell us the difference between a quiet sound and a loud sound?
- Can you give an example of a quiet sound? How about a loud sound?
- Can loud sounds ever be helpful?
- Can you think of a sound that would not be helpful if it was quiet?

2. Use these as ideas for sounds to discuss: dog, crying baby, car, fire truck, and smoke alarm.

**Optional:** Bring images of these things to show students.

Reinforce the idea that some sounds need to be loud to be helpful.

3. Show the students the smoke alarm and explain that it has a very important job. Tell students that a smoke alarm can sense smoke and lets everyone know if there is a fire by making a loud beeping noise. Explain that the noise the smoke alarm makes is very loud, but it is important not to be scared. Tell them you are going to press the button so the alarm will make the “beep, beep, beep” sound. Prepare students for the loud noise.\*

\*Play the sound of smoke alarm on lower volume or say “BEEP, BEEP, BEEP” for those sensitive to sounds.

### Ask:

- Has anyone heard this sound at home?
- How does this sound help us?
- Is it important for the smoke alarm to make a loud noise?



# Kids

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Explain how the sound of the smoke alarm keeps families safe by warning of smoke or fire. If you hear the “beep, beep, beep,” get outside and stay outside. Everyone should meet at their outside meeting place and stay outside until help arrives, or an adult says it is safe to go back inside.

## 4. Activity:

**Note to Educators:** If you can do this activity both inside and outside, that is preferred. If you are unable to access both indoor and outdoor space or if you are short on time, then utilize the indoor space and designate one side as the “inside” of the home and the other as the “outside.” The key is to create a clear distinction between the two spaces to help the children understand the concept of moving from inside to outside in response to the smoke alarm.

- Introduction: Gather students together and explain the purpose of the activity. For example, “Today we are going to practice what to do if we hear the ‘beep, beep, beep’ sound from our smoke alarm.”
- Set up:
  - Indoor setting: Divide the room into two sections: one side as the “inside” and the other side as the “outside.” Use furniture or visual markers to make the distinction clear.
  - Outdoor setting: Take students to a designated outside area. Ensure the outdoor space is safe and clear of any hazards.
- Choosing the Safe Meeting Place:
  - Indoor setting: Lead a discussion with the students about where they think a safe meeting place would be within the classroom. Encourage them to suggest ideas and come to a consensus as a class.
  - Outdoor setting: Lead a discussion with the students about where they think a safe meeting place would be outside. Examples could be a specific tree or a bench.
- Explain to the students that when they hear the smoke alarm, they need to get up and move quickly but calmly to the chosen safe meeting place.
- Demonstrate: Show the students how to respond when they hear the smoke alarm by pretending to activate it yourself, saying “beep, beep, beep.” Model moving quickly but calmly to the chosen meeting place. Use clear, simple language to explain each step as you demonstrate.
- Practice: Once you’ve demonstrated, have the students practice the drill themselves. Use a smoke alarm, smoke alarm sound, or say, “beep, beep, beep.” Encourage the children to listen for the sound and then move quickly but calmly to the safe meeting place just like they would leave their home and meet at their family’s outside meeting place.
- After each practice drill, reinforce the importance of staying at the safe meeting place until it’s safe to return. You could use a simple phrase like, “Stay here until I say it’s safe to go back inside.”
- Repeat the drill several times, allowing students to practice responding to the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Optional: Have students practice hearing the smoke alarm with their eyes open and closed to show that the sound will let them know there is a fire during the day and at night.
  - “Let’s pretend you are playing with toys. You hear the ‘beep, beep, beep’ sound. What should you do?”
  - “Let’s pretend you are sleeping in your bed. You hear the ‘beep, beep, beep’ sound. What should you do?”

## 5. Review Main Points:

- The smoke alarm makes a “beep, beep, beep” sound.
- When you hear the smoke alarm, get outside quickly and stay outside. Go to your safe outside meeting place.

Encourage the students to share what they have learned today with their families.

## Optional Extension Activities

- Get the wiggles out while practicing what to do if you hear the smoke alarm with Steve Songs “Little Rosalie” music video on [Sparky.org](https://www.sparky.org).
- Watch the “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety” video on [SparkySchoolHouse.org](https://www.sparkyschoolhouse.org).

## Sparky.org Activities

- Sparky® and smoke alarm cut out
  - Cut out Sparky and your smoke alarm, tape a popsicle stick to the back of each, and you are ready to put on a play!
  - Use as photo props!
- Color the Sparky the Fire Dog® coloring sheet.
- Complete the Sparky® Beep, Beep, Beep activity sheet.



## 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 get outside if the smoke alarm sounds and go to your outside meeting place. Installing a smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside each sleeping room is crucial. You must be able to hear the smoke alarm if you are asleep.

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

**Parent Message:** Make sure your home has working smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm on every level, outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom. For the best protection, interconnect the smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound. Test all smoke alarms once a month.

Together we can keep your family safe from fire.

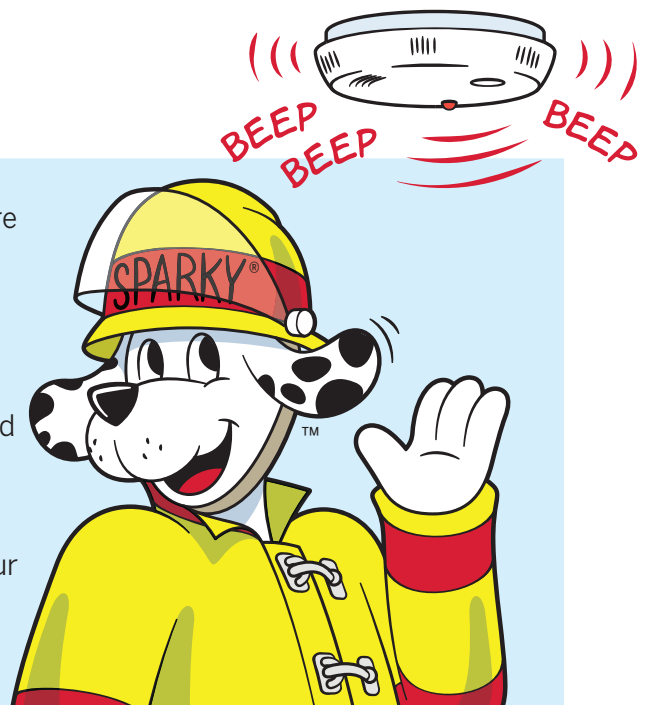
Sincerely,

### Family Fire Safety Activity

Find things in your home that make a noise. Here are some ideas: smoke alarms, vacuum, microwave oven timer, clock, toy, etc.

Take a tour of your home, and when you get to the vacuum, turn it on and ask your child, “Is this the sound of a smoke alarm?” Move to another item and eventually to your smoke alarms.

When you push the smoke alarm button and your child identifies the sound as a smoke alarm, ask your child what he or she should do when the smoke alarm sounds? The answer should be “Get outside and stay outside.”



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



**Kids**

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Smoke alarms make a loud  
"BEEP, BEEP, BEEP" sound  
if there is smoke.

Circle the letters  
from the word:

**BEEP!**



A B C D E F G H I  
J K L M N O P Q R  
S T U V W X Y Z

Write the word **BEEP** in the space below:

When a smoke alarm sounds

BEEP, BEEP, \_\_\_\_\_

Get outside and stay outside.

**Sparky says:**

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside every bedroom.
- Have a grown-up test your smoke alarms once a month by pushing the test button.



**Kids**

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