



HELLO PARENTS,

Fire has had enormous benefits to humankind. When our ancestors learned to create and control fire, they were able to evolve as a species and adapt to cold climates. Fire has been used to cook food, stay warm, forge tools, and manage the landscape. Many cultures view fire as a symbol of wisdom, knowledge and change. To this day, people enjoy gathering around the fire, passing stories, dances and memories from the past. In this newsletter, we offer activities that can help your child understand, marvel at and respect fire.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

HURRY, HURRY DRIVE THE FIRETRUCK

MATERIALS:

- Toy firetruck
- Firefighter hat (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and pretend to be firefighters driving the firetruck.
- Sing the song "Hurry, Hurry Drive the Firetruck" while acting it out slowly.
- Make different facial expressions and actions to match the lyrics.
- Encourage your child to imitate you while singing.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Here Comes the Fire Truck".

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

FIREWORKS IN A JAR

MATERIALS:

- Empty glass jar
- Bowl
- Fork
- Cooking oil
- Water
- Food colouring

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the empty jar with water until it is around ¾ full.
- Add 3 tablespoons of oil into the bowl.
- Have your child choose the food colourings and add a few drops to the oil. They can use as many colours as they want to create a colourful scene.
- Ask your child to stir the oil with the fork to break the food colourings up into smaller balls.
- Carefully pour the oil into the jar of water and watch in amazement as the droplets of the colour shoot down into the water.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Firecrackers Finger Family".

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

FIRE IN A BAG

MATERIALS:

- Extra large Ziploc bag
- Straw
- Orange, red, and yellow tissue paper cut into small pieces
- Red and black permanent markers

DIRECTIONS:

- Ask your child to draw a fire on the outside of the bag using permanent markers.
- Put some coloured tissue pieces in the bag as pretend flames.
- Insert a straw into the bag, with half of the straw sticking out.
- Zip the top of the bag on each side of the straw.
- Encourage your child to blow into the "flames" through the straw and observe the tissue pieces rising off the bottom of the bag.
- Release the air collected in the bag and repeat blowing, trying to set all the tissue pieces in motion.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Pete the Cat: Firefighter Pete" by James Dean.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

FIRE AND AIR

MATERIALS:

- Candle
- Glass jar
- Match

DIRECTIONS:

- Ask your child what would happen if there was no air. We need to breathe the air in order to stay alive.
- Tell your child that fire is very much the same: fire also needs air to "stay alive".
- Light the candle with the match.
- Ask your child to place a glass jar over the lit candle.
- Observe what happens to the candle flame. It takes a few seconds and then goes out.
- Explain to your child that the jar is full of air even though we cannot see it. The flame "breathes in" the air, and when it uses all the air inside the jar, it goes out.

[Click here](#) to learn about the science of wildfires.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

HOME-MADE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

MATERIALS:

- Empty soda bottle
- 5 tablespoons of vinegar
- 1/2 tablespoon of baking soda
- Tea light candle

DIRECTIONS:

- Light the candle.
- Pour vinegar into the bottle and add baking soda. The mixture should fizz.
- Hold the bottle sideways near the flame. "Pour out" the gas, making sure no liquid escapes.
- What happened to the flame?
- The baking soda and vinegar react to make carbon dioxide, a gas that is heavier than oxygen. As it "pours out" of the bottle, it pushes the lighter oxygen away from the candle. The fire, now deprived of oxygen, can no longer burn.

[Click here](#) for campfire food and games.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

FUN FACTS ABOUT FIRE

- Fire is the only element of nature that humans can produce themselves.
- Humans are the only species who know how to use and control fire.
- Earth is the only known planet where fire can burn. On other known planets, there is not enough oxygen.
- In indigenous cultures, fire has been used to rejuvenate land and improve the ecosystems.
- We remember people's love and sacrifice by burning the eternal flame.