Course Description:
This course presents strategies and practices for promoting fire safety in the early care and education environment. Course participants will learn about the dangers of fire in school along with recommendations for evacuation policies and procedures, maintaining a safe environment, and teaching young children about fire safety.

Objectives
By taking notes on the handouts and successfully answering assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives as a result of taking this course:

- Identify key facts and statistics regarding school fires
- Identify essential elements of a program evacuation policy and recommended procedures for conducting drills
- Define and identify recommended practices for common fire safety equipment and devices in the ECE environment
- Identify recommended standards for minimizing the risks of fire as a result of cooking, heating, electrical failure, and other potential causes in the ECE environment
- Identify effective practices, strategies, and curriculum activities for teaching young children about fire safety

* At the end of the course, participants are expected to reflect and write about topics related to their own learning and teaching experiences in relation to course content.

School Fire Statistics
Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.

How Many School Fires Are There?
Common Settings and Causes

What is the common cause of fires in the birth-to-five environment?

Evacuation Policy and Procedures

Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.

1. Before the Drill or Emergency
   Map it!
   Learn it!

2. When the Alarm Sounds
   The sound of a fire alarm ______________ means it is time to evacuate the building.

At the start of the evacuation process, a designated staff member secures the following:
   •
Staff members should _________________ to secure or collect personal items during an evacuation.

3. Evacuate to Assigned Assembly Area

Attendance.

Final sweep...

Assembly Area Policies and Procedures

A Word About Parents...

Experts Recommend Monthly Drills for ECE
Everyday Safety

Parent Volunteers and Substitute Teachers

Infants and Other Non-Ambulatory Children

In the infant-care environment, ____________________________ must be available for all infants.

Basic Fire Safety Standards for Facilities and Classrooms

Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.

Emergency Exits, Alarms, and Other Resources

Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.

Exit doors from the classroom and to the outdoors are…

•

•

•

What is a crash bar?
Closet doors should be

Bathroom doors should be

What is a pull station guard?

What About False Alarms?

Are all facilities required to have emergency lighting?

Walls, Storage, Furnishings, and Window Treatments
Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.

Noncombustible materials or fire resistive construction should be used…

•

•

•
Automatic sprinklers

Fire extinguishers

Maintain good housekeeping standards at all times.

Do not store flammables or combustibles (such as paint, chemicals, or fuel) anywhere near hot water heaters, furnaces, stoves, or other sources of ignition.

Experts recommend that no more than ______ percent of wall space should be covered in paper.

Retractable walls or other room dividers should be made of or coated with fire resistant materials. Do not hang bedsheets, linen curtains, or any other flammable materials from ceilings.

Storage units should be at least __________ inches below ceiling level in an area with sprinklers and _________ inches below ceiling if there are no sprinklers.

Regarding window treatments…

Heating and Electrical Safety

Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.

Cooking Safety

Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.
In a typical ECE program, the smoke detector will trigger the main alarm, which means it is time to evacuate in a calm, orderly fashion. *There are no exceptions.*

*Never leave anything unattended in the stove or oven!* Items that can and often do catch fire in the vicinity of a stove include:

- Oven mitts
- Towels and rags
- Food packaging
- Wooden utensils

*Never leave these items within 3 feet of the stove!*  
*Never throw ____________ on a grease fire.*

How do you put out a grease fire in the kitchen?

When should kitchen staff attempt to extinguish a grease fire and when should they not?

**Flame Retardants and Children’s Toys and Accessories**

**Fire Safety Curriculum**
*Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.*

**Children and the Appeal of Fire**
“Stop Drop and Roll” Is Important for Children
You have probably heard the saying, “Stop, drop, and roll!” It is important for two reasons:

1) 

2) 

Educational Supports for Specific Age Groups
*Use the space provided to record important information from this section of the course.*
Try This!

Children’s Fire Drill Journals

Caregivers and directors keep fire drill logs and children can, too. Reinforce important concepts using fire drill journals with stories and pictures about where they go and what they do during drills. Make an entry after every drill. This is also an opportunity for children to express their feelings and understanding of the issue, including any fears or misconceptions they may have.

Beyond Preschool

Try This!

NFPA Resources

The website of the National Fire Protection Association provides an array of helpful resources for ECE professionals, families, and administrators. Click on any one of the following links (they all basically go to the same place) to access free resources including:

- Activity sheet and lesson plans for the ECE environment
- Safety sheets and tips for programs
- Resources for programs to share with families to promote home safety
- And much more…

http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-public-educators
http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers
http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/sparky-the-fire-dog
http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets
http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week
Reflection

Review your handout and notes and take a few minutes to write a response to the following prompts. You can use the space available on your handout.

- List 3 things you learned in this course that you did not know before.
- What is one thing you can do tomorrow in your classroom to improve fire safety?

References:

National Fire Protection Association (2016), various resources available at http://www.nfpa.org/, including recommended practices, tip sheets, and educational activities.


