



Draft letter for families or whanau

Dear parent or caregiver

Our class will be working on a *Get Firewise* unit. The students will learn some fire-safe behaviours. They will practise what to do to get out FAST if there is a fire in a building they are in.

Each year the New Zealand Fire Service attends about 5,000 house fires. Around a quarter of house fires start in the kitchen from unattended cooking. Once a fire has started in a room, people have three minutes to get out of the room before they breathe in poisonous smoke and die.

There are three things you can do to get out quickly and safely if a fire occurs in your home.

1. Install working smoke alarms in lounges and family living areas, halls and bedrooms to alert you to the fire. If you are asleep, you cannot smell smoke.
2. Have an escape plan so that every family member knows two ways to get out of every room and knows where to go to a safe meeting place.
3. Practise getting out of every room FAST when the smoke alarm goes off or if someone shouts
FIRE, FIRE, FIRE.

During this *Get Firewise* unit, your child or children will bring home your copy of a *Get Firewise Family Book/DVD*. We encourage you to read the story with your child or children, watch the DVD and involve all your family or whānau in making your home fire safe. We also encourage you to practise what to do if a fire starts anywhere in your house.

The *Get Firewise Family Book/DVD* has some simple homework tasks your child or children will be asked to complete as we do the *Get Firewise* unit.

There may be some families in our community who have had an experience of fire. We want to make sure every child can participate positively in this learning programme. Please contact me if there are any concerns about your child or children that I should be made aware of.

Yours sincerely

Signature

