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## Safety and fire prevention - Babysitters and fire safety

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### Parent responsibilities

Entrusting your children to the care of a babysitter is a major responsibility. You should know your babysitter well. Try to employ the same babysitter on a regular basis. Only trust people who have a genuine sense of responsibility and a sincere concern for children. Your babysitter's first priority should be your children's safety.

post emergency numbers near the phone.

- neighbour's name & number
- number where the babysitter can reach you and your own address

### Before the babysitter arrives

- Make sure your children and all family members are familiar with your home escape plan including escape routes and your designated outside meeting place.
- Post your home escape plan where everyone will see it.
- Test all smoke alarms to verify that they are working. Smoke alarms provide precious early warning that can make the difference to survive a fire.
- Speak to responsible neighbours so that, in an emergency, the babysitter may contact them.
- Post emergency numbers by the phone, 9-1-1 and your home address. Include your neighbour's name and telephone number and also the number where the babysitter can reach you.

### When the babysitter arrives

- Tour your home with the babysitter, reviewing your home escape plan. Discuss the floor plan, pointing out marked exits.
- Show the babysitter the designated outside meeting place. Point out your neighbour's neighbours' homes.
- Clearly explain to the babysitter that if there is smoke or fire, your only concern is that everyone gets out of the home quickly and safely. If a smoke alarm sounds, no one should try to locate the fire and no one should try to put it out!
- Point out emergency telephone numbers to the babysitter and provide them with an emergency information sheet (see the example at end of this page). Note: Babysitters should keep

this information sheet with them at all times when they are babysitting your children because they will need it if they have to quickly run to a neighbour's.

- Provide a flashlight for the babysitter in the event of a power failure and show them where you store an emergency kit.
- Provide the babysitter with additional relevant information about the children's routines and special needs such as allergies, medical conditions and medications.

#### **Babysitter responsibilities in the event of fire**

- Keep the safety of the children in mind. Get them to safety.
- No matter how small a fire is, if you see or smell smoke, or detect an odour of gas (smells like rotten eggs), immediately get the children outside and call **9-1-1**.
- Don't waste time dressing the children, even in cold weather.
- Wrap them in blankets instead.
- Don't turn on light switches as this may create a spark, ignite gas vapours and cause an explosion.
- Never re-enter a burning building. Smoke and toxic gases from a fire can be fatal.

#### **Remember**

- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Keep children away from space heaters.
- Keep children in sight at all times.
- Always keep this brochure in a conspicuous place.

#### **Emergency information for babysitters**

Police:  
Fire:  
Ambulance:

Family name:  
Address:  
Telephone:

Parents can be reached at:  
Address:  
Telephone:  
Parents are due back at:

Neighbour's name:  
Address:  
Telephone:

Important information about the children:

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**In case of fire or an emergency, call 9-1-1.**

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