

## Good fire/Bad fire

Key aims: Pupils will learn that fire can be used safely (a good fire), or used carelessly when it can be dangerous. The lesson will also reinforce the dangers of playing with matches and teach the importance of saying “No” when others want to play with fire.

Tell the children that fire can be useful but it can also be dangerous and that they are going to look at the difference. Print out the pictures for children or project them for the whole class to discuss.

Ask children to say whether they think it’s an example of a good fire or a bad fire.

Get children to give reasons why they think it is good or bad. Record answers on the board.

Draw out the following points:

- Bad fire is extremely dangerous: It can get out of control and has no useful purpose.
- Good fire is under control and has a valid, useful purpose.
- If a good fire gets out of control it becomes a bad fire.

Discuss what you should do if someone tries to persuade you to play with fire or start a fire. Make it clear that we should always say “No” because playing with fire is very dangerous.

**What should you do if you find matches or a lighter?** Tell an adult. Do not pick them up or play with them.

**Do you know what a smoke detector sounds like? What should you do if you hear one?** Get out of the house and go to your family’s meeting place, perhaps a neighbor’s house.

Ask the students if they think fire is good or bad. Why? Write the words “helpful” and “harmful” in two columns on the chalkboard. As the students describe why fires are good or bad, put their answers on the board in the correct columns.

Answers will vary, but should include things like:

- Fire is good because without fire you would have to eat raw hamburger.
- Fire is bad because it burned down the tree in our backyard after lightning struck it.

Create sentence strips that begin: Fire helps people because...; or, Fire hurts people because.... Have small groups of students help you finish each strip. Have the students draw pictures that represent the sentences. Place the sentence strips and pictures around the room as appropriate.