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# Ideas You Can Use

...For Coordinating Your Fire Prevention Activities with Schools.

## **--Key Contact--**

Within every school you'll find a key contact...someone who will support and encourage your fire prevention efforts. Seek out this relationship. It will enable you to be more effective, accomplish greater goals and overcome obstacles when they arise.

## **--The Curriculum--**

Try to integrate your fire prevention lessons into the class curriculum. This will make your presentations more timely and appropriate. For example, in your "escape plans" lesson you can show students how math skills are needed and used to create an accurate floor plan.

## **--Staying in Touch--**

Contact the teacher(s) periodically throughout the year. By making suggestions and offering ideas for fire prevention activities, you'll strengthen your relationships with the schools and your presentations will become a more integral part of the school year.

## **--Respect Your Commitment--**

Be on time and keep the length of your classroom presentation as planned. If you've scheduled a 30-minute lesson, don't take 45-minutes. If your time commitment is for 45-minutes, don't finish in 30-minutes. The teacher has outlined the day's class activities to accommodate your presentation. Be sure to respect your time commitment.

## **--Your Message--**

The most successful lessons are usually those that focus on a single topic or message. This is especially true for younger children. For example, teaching "stop, drop and roll" in a single lesson will likely yield better results than trying to also include "crawl low under smoke" during the same class presentation.

## **--Reinforcing Your Message--**

Take handouts for the students that reinforce your fire safety lesson such as coloring books, book markers, stickers or pencils. Include something to send home for the parents or caregiver(s). For example, hand out a grid with instructions on how to plan and practice EDITH, along with a letter outlining the safety tips from your classroom presentation.

### **--Age-Appropriateness--**

Your classroom lessons should always reflect the age of the students. If the lesson you've planned requires a specific reading skill level in order to actively participate, confer with the teacher in advance to make sure the lesson is appropriate for the students.

### **--You're a Role Model--**

Joke with the kids and enjoy your visit. However, when it's time for the lesson to begin, be serious minded. The kids will respond to your attitude and will follow your leadership.

### **--Passion--**

This is so essential to your success in the classroom. If you have passion for your topic, children will be drawn to your enthusiasm and teachers will be motivated to collaborate with you and assist you with whatever you need.

### **--In The Classroom--**

Wear a name badge to help the students feel more comfortable interacting with you.



Ask the teacher to stay in the room during your presentation.



Encourage kids to raise their hands to volunteer to answer questions or give comments.



Always praise good behavior.



Know the technique the teacher uses to quiet the children.



Offer a reward for good listening and behavior (be sure to follow through).



If a child is uncooperative, ask him/her to sit near the teacher or in a quiet area away from the other students.

**--END--**

