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Dear Parent or Caregiver:

Fire can spread through your home or apartment at lightning speed. When the smoke alarm sounds, you may have only seconds or minutes to escape safely.

That's why it's so important that families develop an escape plan. But it isn't enough just to have a plan—you need to practice it regularly so that in the event of a fire everyone knows exactly what to do.

Did you know, only 1 out of 4 Americans have planned AND practiced their home escape plan?

That's why the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has chosen the theme "Practice Your Escape Plan" for Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2007. Our class is going to be learning about escape planning and what kids and families can do to escape safely in the event of a home fire.

I'm also encouraging my students and their families to participate in NFPA's "The Great American Fire Drill," the goal of is to get as many people as possible to develop and practice their home fire escape plans during the month of October. I hope you'll join us in this important safety exercise. Kids can visit [sparky.org](http://sparky.org) to make their drill count and see how many other people are "doing the drill."

As a teacher, I'm committed to helping my students live up to their full potential. Keeping them safe is an important first step. Home fires can be deadly, but by following these safety tips, you'll be helping to make your family safer.

Sincerely,



## Escape Planning Checklist

- Have you drawn a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors?
- Are escape routes clear and do doors and windows open easily?
- Are smoke alarms installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home?
- Are smoke alarms tested at least once a month?
- Has someone been assigned to help infants, young children, older adults or family members needing help in an emergency?
- If windows or doors in your home have security bars, do the bars have quick-release devices inside so that they can be opened in an emergency?
- Have you picked an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped?
- Is your street number easy to see from the road to help the fire department find your home?
- Does everyone in the home know the fire department's emergency number?
- Have you practiced your escape plan?

Visit NFPA's sites for more information: [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org) [www.riskwatch.org](http://www.riskwatch.org) [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

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