# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 6–12, 2013

# PREVENT KITCHEN FIRES

## Dear Parent or Caregiver:

THE KITCHEN is often at the very center of family life — but leave cooking unattended in the kitchen and you could have a serious fire on your hands.

Cooking equipment is involved in roughly 150,000 home fires per year, and many of those fires start because people aren't paying attention. And while a few minutes may not seem like much time to be away from what's cooking, that's all it takes to start a fire that could destroy your home and harm your family.

That's why the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has chosen the theme "Prevent Kitchen Fires" for Fire Prevention Week, **October 6–12, 2013**. During that week, our class is going to be learning about how kitchen fires can start, and what kids and families can do to prevent these fires from starting in the first place.

By teaching kids about fire safety, we can make sure that they know just what to do in the event of a home fire, knowledge that could very well save their lives.

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.




## Kitchen Safety Checklist

- ☐ Does a grown-up always pay attention to things that are cooking?
- ☐ Does a grown-up watch the stovetop when he or she is frying, grilling, or broiling food?
- ☐ If a grown-up must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, he or she turns off the stove?
- ☐ Are things that can burn, dish towels, curtains, or paper at least 3 feet away from the stove?
- ☐ Is the top of the stove clean? No spilled food, grease, paper or bags?
- ☐ Are pot handles turned in towards the back of the stove when a grown-up is cooking?
- ☐ Do children and pets stay out of the "kid-free" zone (3 feet from the stove) when a grown-up is cooking?
- ☐ Are containers opened slowly after they are removed from the microwave, as hot steam escaping from the container can cause painful burns?
- ☐ Is the fire department's emergency number near the phone.
- ☐ Does your family have working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan?

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