



Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together



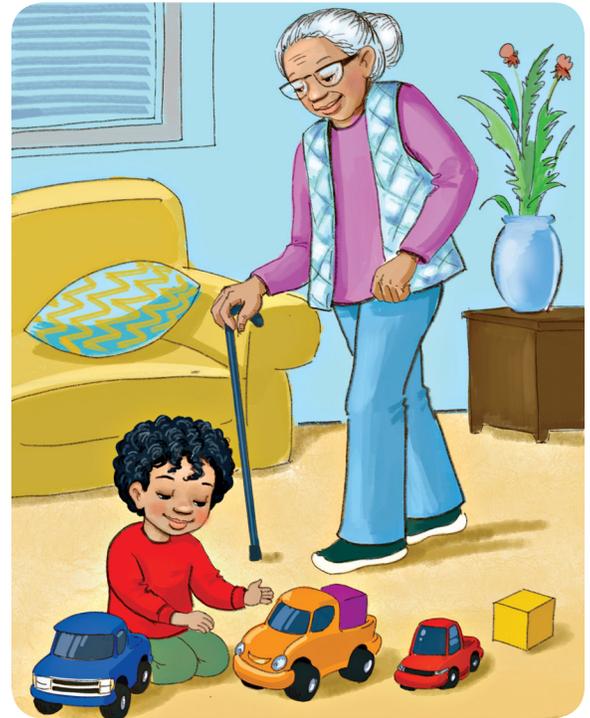
Lesson Plan

Topic: Escape Planning in the Multigenerational Home

Audience: Adults living in a home with residents representing at least three generations. Participants should have a basic understanding of home escape planning. If the content is new, consider teaching this lesson in a 30-minute block in order to cover foundational information about home escape planning.

Lesson Objective: By the end of the lesson, participants will be able to describe at least 5 considerations of an escape plan for a multi-generational home.

Materials: “Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together” tip sheet



Step 1: Introduction (4 Minutes)

Greet the participants and thank them for allowing you to speak for 10 minutes. Let them know you are happy to be there. Introduce yourself and share your connection to the community.

HOOK:

- Imagine that you have a chunk of free time and you want to plan the perfect night out with your loved one. Take a moment to think of what you would do on your perfect night out.
- Ask volunteers to share who they would spend the time with and what they would do.
- After a few volunteers have shared, let the group know they will be joined on their perfect night out by a 2-year old.
- Ask if their plans will change and if so, how? For example, would a quiet dinner at a swanky French restaurant still be a good fit?
- Now tell them an 80-year old relative will also join them on their perfect night out. Will the plans change further? How might a romantic walk on the beach with your toddler and elderly mother work out?
- Discuss participants' thoughts and ideas.
- Bring the discussion to a close with a statement about how having children or older adults along can bring us joy but still cause us to rethink our plans.
- The same thing should happen when we are planning for safety!

Escape Planning in the Multigenerational Home —

Step 2: Body (5 minutes)

- Briefly review home escape plan basics:
 - If the smoke alarm sounds, stop what you are doing and go outside.
 - Have two ways out of every room
 - Have an outside family meeting place
 - Practice the escape plan at least twice a year.
- Inform participants that it is very important to include everyone who lives in the home when creating the escape plan. They must consider everyone's needs — from the youngest to the oldest — when planning how to get out safely.
- Ask: What are some special considerations in a home escape plan if you have a young child or an older adult living with you?
- Discuss the responses and be sure the following points are covered:
 - Take action so everyone can escape quickly and safely:
 - Make sure your home has bright lighting in stairways to prevent falls.
 - Remove clutter to prevent trips and falls and a quick escape.
 - Install handrails along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
 - If you have escape ladders in the home, use them safely. Practice using the ladder from a first floor window. Make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with an adult.
 - Practice the escape plan with everyone who lives in your home. Teach children how to escape on their own in case the adults cannot help them. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.
 - Smoke alarms may not wake up children. Older adults may not hear the smoke alarm. Assign someone to help children, older adults and people with disabilities escape.



Step 3: Conclusion (1 minute)

- Remind participants that it is important to make sure everyone's needs and abilities are considered when making an escape plan.
- Thank the participants for allowing you to speak to them for a short time.
- Hand out the "Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together" tip sheet for participants to take home.
- Share your contact information and encourage attendees to reach out with questions.