



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



FIRESETTING

Advice for Parents and Guardians

This booklet is designed to give guidance to parents and guardians who may be concerned about a child or young person playing with or lighting fires.



**Diogel
ac Iach
Safe
& Well**

Free Safe & Well Visits:
Telephone: 0800 169 1234

ADVICE FOR PARENT AND GUARDIANS

Parents and guardians who have concerns about fire setting behaviour displayed by children should follow the advice in this booklet.

What are the signs?

- Look out for small burn holes in carpets, charred paper in sinks or wastebaskets.
- Matches and lighters may be hidden in their cupboards, drawers, under bed, school bags or they may know exactly where to get yours from even if you think you have hidden them.
- They may come home from playing out smelling of smoke.
- Your child may express a fascination with fire.
- You have an unexplained fire in the home.

IMPORTANT ADVICE

- Make sure lighters and matches kept in the home are stored out of sight and reach of children and young people.
- Never leave children alone in the house, even for short periods of time.
- Never assume toddlers or infants are incapable of lighting a match or lighter – better to be safe than sorry.
- Search for lighters and matches in clothes, bedrooms and school bags.
- Check for signs of fire setting such as burn marks on carpets, beds and furniture – particularly in their bedroom.
- Explain that fire is dangerous and only adults should deal with it.
- Don't keep flammable liquids in the house and keep outbuildings, garden sheds and garages locked to prevent access to flammable liquids.
- Ensure your home is fitted with at least one working smoke alarm on each floor level. Test smoke alarms at least once a week. **For a free Safe and Well visit please call 0800 169 1234 or email saw@mawwfire.gov.uk.**
- Make a home fire safety plan with your family and practice it (details of where to get fire safety information can be found at the back of this booklet).

WHY DO CHILDREN START FIRES?

Children and young people start to play with fire for various reasons, ranging from natural curiosity to attention seeking or a cry for help.

Without help and guidance fire setting may increase and lead to more serious consequences such as serious personal injury and damage to homes, schools and other properties.

This behaviour needs to be recognised and dealt with appropriately in order to minimise the chances of it happening again.

If you suspect your child is playing with fire:

- Act on the advice given in this leaflet, you could reduce the chances of your child starting a fire.
- Consider your own actions and how they might influence the behaviour of the children and young people for whom you are responsible.
- If you think the problem is serious or you feel you need help to deal with it then you can call the Fire Service, contact details can be found at the back of this booklet.

FIRESETTER INTERVENTION SCHEME

This scheme offers help from Fire Service personnel who are specially trained to work with children and young people who have demonstrated a worrying interest in fire. The scheme caters for children and young people of any age.

WHAT CAN THE FIRE SERVICE DO?

The scheme offers different programmes of education and advice to children, young people and their families or any agency that might be involved.

The programmes include a Home Visit. FACE programme is usually aimed at very young children and takes place in the home. SAFE programme (4 sessions) and the FIRESAFE programme (10 sessions).

Young people who have been caught for Arson usually follow the longer programme, however, the scheme aims to help prevent young people finding themselves in this situation. The sessions for SAFE and FIRESAFE usually take place at a Fire Station and last about an hour.



Free Safe & Well Visit

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FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the Scheme and the programmes on offer please contact:

The Firesetter Co-ordinator

Community Safety Headquarters

Lime Grove Ave

Carmarthen SA31 1SP

Tel: 0370 6060 699



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Community Safety