



# The Birthday Cake Mistake – Reading Comprehension Lesson

## Description

The fire and rescue service encourages children to know that playing with matches and lighters can be dangerous. This lesson plan provides an opportunity to listen to and read the Birthday Cake Mistake story, a fire safety story which promotes the safe use of matches and lighters by adults. It also provides an opportunity to discuss the need for smoke alarms and escape plans at home and includes linked activities which help with personal, social and emotional development.

## General Information

Session Focus / Theme –  
Fire Safety

Recommended Key Stage / Age –  
EYFS 4–5 Years / KS1 5-7

English Curriculum Focus –  
English Reading and Comprehension

Timing –  
30 Minutes

## Preparation

- Resources – ‘The Birthday Cake Mistake!’ Story Book, Narrative Support Document and Worksheet for Finger Puppets (colour or black and white version)
- Teacher notes – Children and Young People are affected by the accidental use of everyday household items such as matches and lighters. Through reading the story of ‘The Birthday Cake Mistake!’ pupils will learn that matches and lighters are dangerous and should not be touched by them and are only for adult use. They will also learn about smoke alarms detecting a fire and that best practice is to get everyone out of the home safely and calling 999 in such an emergency.

## Other Cross-curricular links

Pupils will also use skills in;

- English - Reading; understand simple sentences and demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.
- EYFS - Early Learning Goals – Communication and Language; listening to stories, accurately anticipating key events and responding to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.
- PSHE – Health and Wellbeing – Keeping Safe; learning about how to stay safe at home from fire hazards and knowing not to play with matches or lighters.
- Art and Design - Use a wide range of colouring and design techniques to express their ideas and imagination.





## Key Vocabulary

Matches      Lighters      Fire and Rescue Service      Smoke Alarm      Play      Emergency

## Pupil Learning Objective

I will know about hazards (including fire risks) that may cause harm, injury or risk in the home and what I can do to reduce risks and keep safe.

## Teacher Expectations

By the end of the lesson pupils will;

### Know...

That matches and lighters are for adults to use.

### Understand...

That playing with matches or lighters can cause harm and injury and how a working smoke alarm can keep us safe.

### Be able to...

To explain to others how to reduce risks and keep safe.

## Expected Progress

Pupils will be exceeding expectations if they are able to confidently talk about the events, concerns and explain actions the children in the story could have taken. Pupils will also be able to identify dangerous items in the story to help build knowledge and understanding about household hazards and risks. They will understand why a smoke alarm would sound and what action to take in such an emergency.

## Introduction

The story can be narrated using the narrative and supporting notes, that are provided within the fire safety bundle, which also includes lessons for the English curriculum. Children can also contribute to the development of the story by engaging with the pictures. The book is designed to be used with small groups or the whole class. There are key questions and teaching points given on the narrative description pages to support learning development.





## Main Activity

What	How
Challenge	Listening to the story and confidently answer the key questions.
Awesome Challenge	Listening to the story and identify the hazards and risks within the story. What would they tell the children in the story to do to keep safe?
Mega Challenge	Listening to the story, identify the hazards and risks and explain why they are dangerous. Explain in their groups who should use the dangerous items and why they are used.
Colossal Challenge	Listening to the story, identify the hazards and risks, explain why they are dangerous and explain to the group why they are dangerous and what harm they could cause. Explain who should use the dangerous items and retell the story using the finger puppets.

## Plenary

Ask as a whole group or class;

What did Katy do wrong? What should she have done? What did Katy do that was dangerous?

Do you think her mummy will be disappointed with her? Why?

What do you think Ben should have done when Katy suggested playing the game? Why?

What is a safe thing to do when a smoke alarm sounds? Why is this?

What number do you phone if there is an emergency?

## Assessment for Learning

Observe the answers given, assessing the children's understanding of how to play safely. Can the pupils identify other similar dangerous objects that are for adult use only? Can they answer in their own words what they have learnt from Katy and Ben's story?

## Home Learning

The story can be accessed at home via [www.StayWise.co.uk](http://www.StayWise.co.uk) and read by the pupil to others. The extra activities: using the storyboard, folding book or finger puppets could be taken home and completed. The story could be retold or acted out at home. If using online sharing applications, any of this could be captured by video or photo and shared with the school.



