

## Session plan 1:

# Firefighters help in emergencies

### Background

It is preferred that pre-primary groups visit their local fire station for this lesson. Presenters should ask teachers to arrange for parents to attend as well – stipulate one adult for every two children. Where centre location or travel costs rule out an excursion, presenters may visit childcare centres.

Children need to understand that the importance of reporting a fire is very serious, and must only be done in an emergency. Knowing how to report an emergency correctly will give children confidence in their ability to act appropriately in an emergency. Be careful to remind children that it is triple zero that they need to dial, not the letter O.

### Suggested teaching time

30–60 minutes

### Objectives

To develop awareness of:

- firefighters as community helpers
- firefighting clothing and equipment.

### Materials needed

- Firefighters' turnout gear
- Children's turnout gear (if available)
- Breathing apparatus (if available)
- **Worksheet 11: In an emergency, dial triple zero** (one copy for each child)
- **Worksheet 12: Fire smart from the start** (for parents/guardians)
- Coloured pencils
- An old telephone (if available)

## Session outline

### 1. The firefighter

10 minutes

- Ask the children to raise their hand to tell you if they have seen firefighters before.
- Choose two or three children to tell you what they think firefighters do.
- Explain very simply that you put out fires and also help people when there is a fire.

### 2. Firefighters' clothing

10 minutes

- Show the children your uniform and tell them that you wear special clothing to protect you from getting burnt.
- Point to each item from your turnout gear and ask the children to name what it is and which part of your body it protects. If displaying breathing apparatus explain that the mask and air tank enable you to breathe if there is smoke. Remember that firefighters wearing breathing apparatus can appear frightening for some children at this age. A demonstration of the use of breathing apparatus is not necessary.
- Choose children to wear parts of the children's gear and tell the class what it feels like.

### 3. Emergency triple zero

10 minutes

- Discuss ways of alerting others when an emergency occurs. Who in the community could children notify? Focus on places and people they could phone and how to alert adults when a fire starts.
- Ask students how they would ask the fire brigade to attend an emergency.
- Emphasise the correct number – triple zero – and stress that it is an emergency number, to be used only for fire, police and ambulance. If available, use an old telephone to conduct role playing with the children.
- Ensure that children understand that they must first get out, warn others if they can, and then report the fire (dial triple zero) from a safe place such as their neighbour's home.
- Provide each child with a copy of **Worksheet 11: In an emergency dial triple zero**. Children can complete the colour in activity at the fire station, if time allows, or when they return to their care centre. Suggest that children take home their colour ins to display on the fridge.

### 4. Provide each parent/guardian with a copy of **Worksheet 12: Fire smart from the start** and offer to answer any questions they might have about fire safety.

Captain Koala says...  
Be fire smart from the start

