

## Going to the fire station

### Learning aims

- Start to show an interest in different occupations
- Talk about why things happen
- Talk about how things work.

### Resources

- Visuals of: a firefighter, hose, fire station, fire engine, firefighter's pole, ladder
- Small world play items such as fire engines, firefighter characters
- Role play items such as dressing up clothes, helmets, lengths of hose
- Risk assessment
- Adult helpers.



### Activity Outline

Outline all of the steps a practitioner would need to do to implement the activity.

1. This week is International firefighter's week and so is a great opportunity to introduce the children to this critical role and understand what firefighters do and how they help us
2. Preparing the children for the visit will be vital for them to gain the most learning from the outing. Reading them stories such as 'Topsy and Tim meet the firefighters,' is a great place to start. You can also share the visuals with the children discussing what they can see and asking open ended questions to prompt their thinking e.g. "Why do you think they are wearing a helmet?"
3. Use the visuals, small world and role play items to introduce key vocabulary to the children
4. Watch videos such as CBeebies 'What's on your head? Firefighter' with the children. Discuss what kind of emergencies firefighters might attend
5. Contact your local fire station as they may be willing to organise a visit with you. Consider what learning opportunities you would like the children to have and be specific with the fire station e.g. wearing a helmet, having a look at the firefighter's pole and why it is used, or getting a close look at a hose and for the firefighters to explain why and how it would be used
6. Read your setting's trip and visit policy and complete a risk assessment before your visit
7. Give parents and carers plenty of notice that you are going on a trip and will need help to ensure that you have enough support for it to go ahead
8. Be fully prepared for the trip to ensure that the children can gain the most from this exciting learning opportunity.

## Extending the activity

- Create a firefighters obstacle course to give children opportunities to weave around cones, crawl under tables and slither on their tummies across benches
- Pretend to put out a fire. Paint flames onto a tuff tray and stand it up. Give the children water in spray bottles and see if they can squirt the 'fire' off
- Engage the children in pretend rescues, such as getting a cuddly toy from a tree and explaining to their friends or key person what they did.

## Special considerations

Important: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.