

## Prevention First Preschool Found Highly Effective in Teaching Fire Safety

In 2003, Fireproof Children received a FEMA/U.S. Fire Administration grant to develop Prevention First Fire Safety Education for Preschool Children and Families and present it for directors and lead teachers of Head Start programs and other child care providers in states with high rates of fire-related deaths and injuries among children. The basis of the workshops is the play safe! be safe! multi-media classroom kit developed by BIC Corporation with the assistance of Fireproof Children.

Fireproof Children has completed evaluation of this free training program, including pre- and post-testing of the 129 managers/lead teachers trained at seven workshops held during Fall 2003, and of 253 of the several thousand classroom teachers who ultimately were trained in the program and used it in their classrooms.

Prior to Prevention First training, teachers indicated they understood the importance of fire safety, but they did not regularly include fire safety as part of their lesson plans and were not confident in their ability to teach it to preschool children. In addition, pre-testing showed they had an incomplete understanding of specific fire safety practices.

Post-test knowledge assessments and their own self-report showed a highly statistically significant increase in teachers' knowledge of fire safety and how to best teach preschool children, their intention to include fire safety in future curriculum, and their confidence in their ability to do so.

At pre-test, 73% of teachers rated the importance of fire safety a 10 out of 10. At post-test, this increased to 91%. At pre-test 59% of teachers reported always including fire safety as part of their curriculum (rating of 10), while at post-test 80% rated their intention to include fire safety a 10. And while at pre-test only 42% of teachers reported unqualified confidence in their ability to teach fire safety to preschool children, at post-test this increased to 79%.

Questions addressing teachers' knowledge of fire safety included: rank ordering the most frequent causes of death, fatal unintentional injuries, and fire-related deaths among 3-5 year olds; and fill-in-the-blank questions regarding smoke detector use, fire escape plans, keeping ignition materials out of children's sight and reach, teaching children that such materials are adult tools only, and crawling low under smoke in the event of a fire. At pre-test the average score on the 7-question test was 71%. At post-test this increased to 89%.

To learn more about the [Prevention First Preschool](#) program, please [click here](#).