

## Immediate advice if you have concerns about a young person's firesetting behaviour:

1. Consider your own actions and how they may influence the behaviour of the children you are responsible for.
2. Never leave matches or lighters around the home, even in pockets or handbags.
3. Never assume toddlers or infants are incapable of lighting a match or lighter.
4. Be aware they may hide matches and/or lighters in their clothing, possessions or bedrooms for use later.
5. Ensure that you have working smoke alarms on each floor and one in the bedroom of the young person.
6. Do not allow rubbish to pile up.
7. If you have an open fire make sure it is fitted with an adequate safety guard.



This photograph shows an example of a trained 'Firewise' advisor working with a young child to discuss what is 'safe or unsafe' and the reasons they have for their decisions.

This activity allows the child to talk about experiences they have had with fire and for the advisor to educate about making safe choices.



If you would like more information about the Firewise scheme or to make a referral, please contact us:

**0303 9991009**  
**[firewise@esfrs.org](mailto:firewise@esfrs.org)**  
**[www.esfrs.org/firewise](http://www.esfrs.org/firewise)**

# FIREWISE

PROTECTION EDUCATION  
PREVENTION



**East Sussex**  
Fire & Rescue Service

Do you have concerns about a young person and fire?

## Why do young people play with fire?

Young people may play with fire for various reasons, for example, a natural curiosity or seeking attention. Without help and guidance, firesetting behaviour can escalate and lead to more serious consequences.

We can reduce the chances of young people starting fires by understanding and challenging their behaviour and by giving them some basic fire safety advice.

We can give guidance to parents, carers and professionals who may be concerned about a young person playing with fire.



## Watch out for these tell-tale signs of firesetting behaviour:

- Matches or lighters hidden in bedrooms, school bags or coats.
- An unusual fascination with fire.
- Small burn holes on carpets, bedding and furniture.
- Scorch marks in hidden locations such as in wardrobes or cupboards.
- Burnt paper or objects in bins.
- Burnt matches lying around.
- Noticing the smell of burning.
- Unexplained fires in the home or garden.
- Noticing injuries to skin e.g. burns.



## Our Firewise Scheme...

Aims to eliminate the likelihood of young people firesetting in the future, by educating them about the dangers and impacts of fire, enabling them to make safer choices.



All of our 'Firewise' advisors will provide information, support, advice and guidance to you and the young person.

Our advisors are available to visit schools, home or other establishments. Permission of parents/carers is required before any visit is undertaken.

Once a referral is received, an advisor will make contact to arrange a visit at a time and place convenient for you and the young person.

A menu of flexible and tailored activities, have been created to develop and enhance the young person's fire safety knowledge.

Through partnership working, we can liaise with organisations that assist the young people with other needs that they may have.