



A safe home is in your hands.

The Garcia Family Has a Fire Drill

The Garcia family wants to be safe from fire. They know a fire grows fast and the smoke makes it hot and dark. There is not much time to get out safely. But they can be safe if they know what to do!

Getting Ready for the Drill Step One: Making a Plan



The Garcias make a home fire escape plan. First, they draw a floor plan of their home.

They find two ways out of every room. They draw on the plan where the doors and windows are. They draw in where the smoke alarms are. Then they pick a meeting place outside where everyone will meet.



Emergency numbers are placed next to every phone. The children know the emergency number for the fire department by heart. They know the street name and number where they live.



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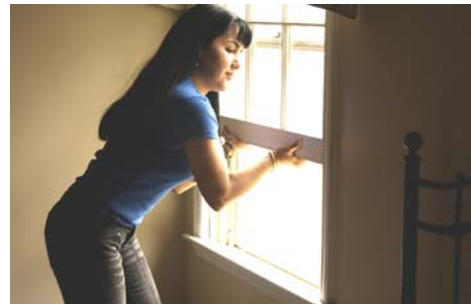
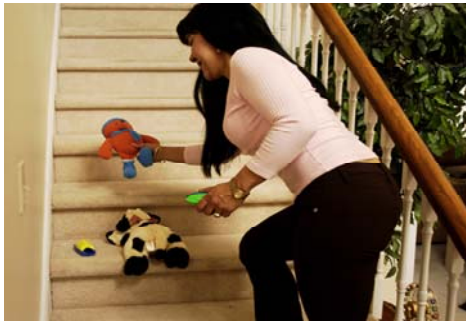
Step Two : Smoke Alarms



The Garcias make sure all their smoke alarms are working. If a fire happens in the night, the smoke alarms will wake them up. The Garcias have smoke alarms on every floor of their home.

But the alarms are pretty old. Today, Mr. Garcia puts up some new smoke alarms. They work well! They make a very loud sound – Beep ! Beep ! Beep !

Step Three : Clearing the Way



Mrs. Garcia looks for things that might keep the family from getting outside fast. She clears toys and clutter off the stairs. The children put their toys in the toy box.

Then Mrs. Garcia checks to make sure all doors and windows open easily.



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Step Four: Walking Through the Plan



Mrs. Garcia explains the plan to the children. She teaches them what to do when the smoke alarm goes off. She teaches John to feel around the door frame and to touch the doorknob with the back of his hand. “If it feels cool,” she says, “it is safe to open the door a little and peek out. If you don’t see any smoke, go out the door to your exit. Go to the meeting place.”



John asks his mother, “What if I feel around the door and it feels warm?”
“Another good question!” said Mrs. Garcia. “That may mean a fire is nearby. You will need to use your second way out. You could use the window.”



Carla has a question. “What if we see smoke along the way? What should we do?”

“Good question!” said her mother. “If you see smoke on your way out, get low! Smoke rises to the ceiling first. The air is less smoky near the floor. Bend down or crawl on your hands and knees to your exit. Get low and go!”



To go out the window, John needs an escape ladder. John has an escape ladder in his room. John and his mom know how the ladder works.



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Step Five: Doing the Drill



The children know the plan. They know what to do. It's time for the home fire drill!
John and Carla go to their rooms. They pretend it is night and pretend they are sleeping.



Mr. Garcia pushes the button on the smoke alarm so everyone will know the sound it makes if there is a fire.



John feels around the door for heat. The door feels cool, so he opens it and peeks out. "Pretend you see a little smoke," says Mrs. Garcia. "Get low and go!"



Mrs. Garcia knows she needs to help the children escape. Sometimes children sleep through the sound of the alarm. Mrs. Garcia will make sure they wake up.



Mrs. Garcia and the children get outside fast. They do not go back in. They go to their meeting place. Mr. Garcia goes out a different way and meets them there.

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Mrs. Garcia says, “In a real fire I would call 9-1-1 for the fire department. I would use my cell phone from this meeting place. Or I could call from Mrs. Lee’s house next door. But not today. Today was just a drill. And you did a great job!”

Practice Makes Perfect



John and Carla put their plan on the refrigerator. They will see the plan every day. They will practice it twice a year. They are proud to know what to do in a fire!