



Fire Safety Literacy Project



# Two Ways Out

## A Family 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.

## 1. Make a plan.

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

They put 5 things on the plan:

1. two ways out of every room
2. the doors
3. the windows
4. the smoke alarms
5. a place outside where everyone will meet

They put emergency numbers next to every phone. The children learn 2 things by heart:

1. the emergency number for the fire department
2. the street name and number for their home





## 6. Talk about the drill.

Mrs. Garcia says, “In a real fire I will call 9-1-1 after we get to the meeting place. I will use my cell phone or go to Mrs. Lee’s house next door. But we are just practicing now. And you did a great job!”

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

**Remember:**  
**Practice Makes Perfect!**



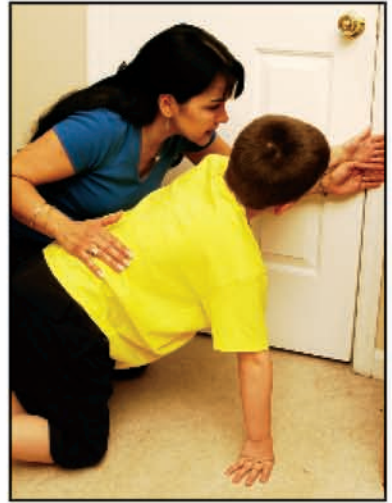
## 4. Walk through the plan.

Mrs. Garcia tells the children what to do when the smoke alarm goes off. She tells them to check doors before they open them. She teaches John to use the back of his hand to check the door frame and the doorknob.

“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 our door to the meeting place.”

John asks, “What if the door is warm?” “Good question!” said Mrs. Garcia. “That may mean a fire is near the door. You will need to use your other way out. That may be the window.”

John’s bedroom is on the second floor. He has an escape ladder in his room. In a real fire, Mr. or Mrs. Garcia will help him use it to get outside.



Carla has a question. “What if we see smoke before we get outside? What should we do?”

Mrs. Garcia says, “Another good question!” “If you see smoke, get low! Smoke goes up. There is less smoke near the floor. Bend down or crawl on your hands and knees to get out. Get low and go!”

## 5. Do the drill.

The children know the plan. They know what to do. It’s time for a home fire drill!

One fire drill is at night, right before John and Carla go to sleep.

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





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 helps the children escape. Sometimes children don’t hear the sound of the alarm and don’t wake up. Mr. or Mrs. Garcia will make sure they wake up.

The Garcia family practices their fire drill more than once. They get out fast every time, day or night. They do not go back in. They go to the meeting place.



## 2. Test smoke alarms.

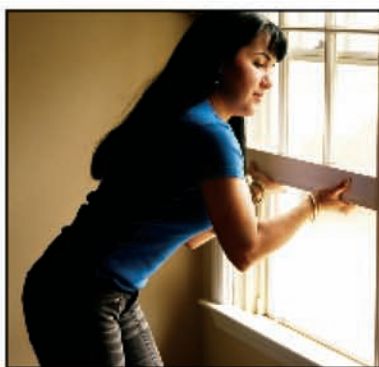
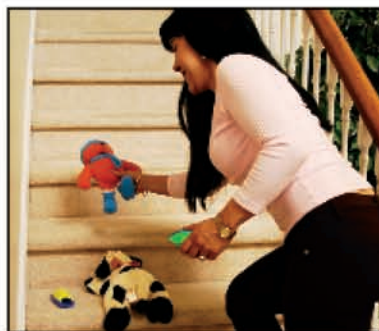
The Garcias test all the smoke alarms. If a fire happens in the night, the smoke alarms will wake them up. The Garcias have a smoke alarm on every floor of their home.

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! – Beep! Beep! Beep!

## 3. Clear the way.

If there is a fire, the family has to get out fast. Mrs. Garcia always keeps the stairs clear.

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





**[www.firesafetyliteracyproject.org](http://www.firesafetyliteracyproject.org)**

Este cuento también está disponible en español.

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