Preparing for Fire Drills.
You go to school to learn.
The teacher’s job is to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. They also teach kids how to stay safe.
The school has a fire drill every month to teach you what to do if there is a real fire.

They want to keep you safe.
When there is a fire drill you will hear a loud alarm and see a flashing light. This is only for practice. There is not a real fire.
It is going to be really loud.

It needs to be loud so that all of your teachers and friends can hear the bell no matter where they are in the school.
You can cover your ears or put your headphones on.

Just make sure you can hear the teacher’s instructions.
When the bell rings, stand up and then get in line with your classmates.

Wait for your teacher to tell you when and where to go.
Leave your books, pens and pencils on the desk. The teacher might let you get a coat.
Follow your teacher and classmates out of the classroom door and then outside.

Walk quietly.
Do not run or yell.
Wait where the teacher tells you to wait.

This is not play time.
The alarm will stop ringing when everyone is out of the building.
When the teacher says it is ok to go back into the school, follow your classmates back inside.
Remember it is just practice.

Enjoy the short break from class with your friends.
Tips to prepare your child for a fire drill.

1. **PREPARE** - Use this picture story to start preparing your child for a fire drill.
   - We recommend that you read the story daily at the same time of day during the week or so leading up to the event.
   - Customize the picture story by adding or eliminating elements that are not relevant for your child.
   - You can watch this YouTube video with your child, so the child will know what a fire drill sounds like.
     - [https://youtu.be/LgHxs_2yBMs](https://youtu.be/LgHxs_2yBMs)
     - Watch it with the volume low at first.
     - Each time you watch it, increase the volume to get them use to the sound.
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2. **PLAN**
   - Talk to your teacher about your child’s sensory issues, so that she or he can be close by your child when the alarm sounds.
   - Have your child bring noise canceling headphones to school.
     - Let the teacher know that your child has them.
     - Tell your child that it is ok to put them on whenever there is a fire drill, but pay attention to teacher.

   - Remind them that fire drills are done to protect them, not scare them.