

## Does it Work?

Research shows that more than 90% of children who go through the FFF program do not continue with unsafe fire behaviour.

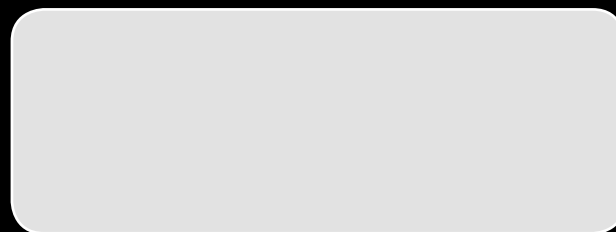
### *How do parents describe how FFF has changed their child?*

- “Hasn’t touched matches again”
- “Understands the dangers now”
- “Respects fire more”
- “More mature and understands more about fire safety”
- “Won’t touch lighters anymore”
- “Tells everyone the ins and outs of fire safety”
- “Self-esteem has improved”

With results like these, the program has saved lives, property and given parents peace of mind.



If you have any concerns about your child’s involvement with fire, contact your local fire station



Queensland Fire and Rescue Service  
**Fight Fire Fascination Program**  
Ph: 07 3247 8154 Fax: 07 3247 8145  
Mail: GPO Box 1425, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001.

For information on other Queensland Fire and Rescue programs, go to [www.fire.qld.gov.au](http://www.fire.qld.gov.au).



Version 08-05

# Fight

# FIRE

## Fascination

Fight Fire Fascination

*Helping children and young people to develop fire safe skills.*

**Queensland Fire and Rescue Service**



## When is interest in fire unhealthy?

Most children will, at some stage, show curiosity about fire. This is expected and natural. However, if this interest develops into playing with matches or lighters; experimenting with fire; lighting fires in unsafe places; or experimenting with bombs and aerosol cans, chances are the child has an unhealthy interest in fire. Sometimes, even accidentally lighting a fire or being injured by fire can be signs of trouble ahead.

## What are warning signs?

These signs can include:

- missing matches or lighters turning up in your child's room, pockets or bags;
- scorch marks on toys, clothes, under beds, or in cubby houses;
- the smell of something burnt; and
- intense interest in, or conversations about, fire.

## Am I the only one facing this problem?

**NO.** In many parts of the western world, children are becoming more fascinated by fire. This is possibly because for many, fire is not a regular part of their life. Sometimes, fire play or fire setting can also be a sign that the child is worried about something and may need additional help.

## Is help available?

**YES.** Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, through its Fight Fire Fascination



program, provides a *FREE CONFIDENTIAL* service to address this unwanted behaviour. The program (also known as Triple-F), is best suited for children between 3 and 17 years who have not been charged with a criminal offence in relation to fire.

## How does FFF Work?

The FFF Program aims to support parents with their efforts to educate their children about fire. It is based on a belief that children and young people can learn skills to remain safe from fire.

This is achieved through a series of visits to the home by specially trained firefighters.

During these visits, the FFF firefighters develop trust and understanding with children/young people. They explain the consequences and benefits of fire, and teach the young person how to make their homes and families safe from fire dangers.

By including goals and rewards in the FFF Program, the firefighter, working with the family, is usually able to turn a negative into a positive and prevent further unsafe fire play.

The FFF Program works in partnership with schools, child mental health services and police to ensure that children and families get the help they need.



## What do parents have to say about the firefighters who visit their homes?

- “They spoke with the kids in their language”
- “They were honest and didn't judge. They were friendly and open”
- “They made my child realise their action towards other people”
- “Great information”

## Can I do anything in the meantime?

**You can take immediate action to reduce the risks from the behaviour by:**

- explaining to your child that fire is not a toy, but it is a tool used by responsible adults;
- ensuring lighters and boxes of matches in your home or car are all accounted for and kept out of reach of children;
- teaching your children, if they find matches or lighters, to immediately hand them to adults or tell an adult if they see another child playing with matches or lighters; and
- making sure working smoke alarms are installed in your home and an evacuation plan is in place.

