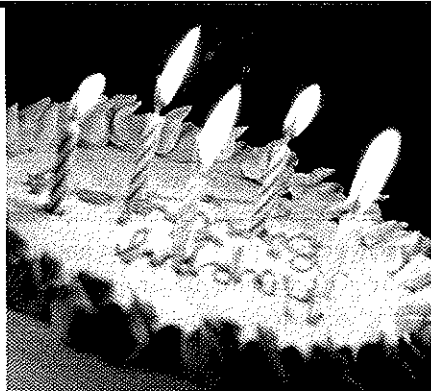


# A child's fascination with fire begins at an early age

For help in Hastings & Prince Edward  
Counties TAPP-C  
Intake CALL 613-966-3100  
Information # 613-966-6929  
Belleville Fire Department



## The facts about fire-play

**If your child is involved in fire-play or firesetting, you are not alone.** Many children have a fascination with fire. It is important to understand that while curiosity about fire is natural, fire-play can be dangerous. In fact, fire is a leading cause of death among children in the home. Unfortunately, many youngsters start the very fires that injure or kill themselves or others.

## What is fire-play?

**Fire-play can be many things:**

- Playing with matches or lighters
- Playing with the toaster, stove or furnace
- Burning items such as toys, paper or garbage
- Setting a fire to destroy something or hurt someone

## Things to watch for:

If you notice any of the following, your child may be involved in fire-play:

- Matches or lighters go missing
- Matches or lighters are found among your child's belongings
- There are burn marks on household items or your child's clothing or possessions
- Your child is extremely interested in fire

## Help is available

Firesetting presents an enormous risk to children, their families and the community. Fire involvement can be a sign of other problems in a child's life. It can start at any age. Fire-play can start out small and lead to larger and more serious fires that threaten the safety of the child and the family. It's important that you deal with any fire involvement immediately.

**That's where TAPP-C comes in.**

## The TAPP-C program

TAPP-C is a program that brings together fire service and counseling professionals to help families deal effectively with children and teens involved in fire-play. The fire service professionals educate children and their families about fire and how to develop good fire safety practices. Counseling professionals assess the risk of continued fire involvement and help children and their families deal with problems that may contribute to the firesetting. TAPP-C is free-of-charge and is available to children from 2 to 17 years of age.

## Keep your child safe from fire

You can help to protect your child and family from fire by following these fire safety tips:

- Make sure that young children are supervised at all times.
- Keep matches and lighters locked away where children cannot get them.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. Test them regularly.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

If you have concerns about your  
child, call TAPP-C.  
We're Here to Help.



Centre  
for Protection and  
Mental Health  
Centre  
toxicomanie et  
santé mentale

**TAPP-C**