

Farmington Early Childhood Safety Drills

All FPS schools follow Safety Drill protocols for severe weather, evacuation, ALICE, and lockdowns including Farmington Early Childhood Center. For early childhood, this means that adults will make decisions regarding appropriate responses in crisis situations. Adults will have to explicitly guide children in their actions and behaviors.

This information is for parents to understand how the school staff approach safety drills *in a developmentally appropriate way as much as possible*.

Teachers might use phrases such as: I want you to know that everyone at school is here to keep you safe and we have a very safe school. One of the ways that we keep our school safe is by making sure that we practice how to stay safe. For example, we keep our classroom doors locked. We have visitors and teachers wear name tags. Sometimes we have a loud alarm and flashing lights that warns us if we think there is a fire in the building. We make sure that we know where to go in the building if there is a tornado or bad weather.

When working with young children at school we teach the following concepts:

- Adults at school work hard to keep the school safe
 - Our teachers help us be SAFE at school by practicing SAFETY DRILLS like Evacuation drills where we go outside or Bad Weather Drills where we stay safe in the school.
 - Reading an age appropriate social story on safety.
 - When we practice our SAFETY DRILLS, we need to STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN.
 - Practicing the individual components of drills with children:
 - Following adult directions
 - Coming to the teacher quickly when directed
 - Being quiet quickly when directed and teaching what quiet looks like
 - When outside, quickly gathering around a teacher when a whistle blows
- We may offer concrete examples of common dangers that adults address to keep children safe, examples may include:
 - Using seat belts and car seats
 - Holding hands when crossing the street
 - Not petting dogs/cats that are unknown
 - Having outlet covers
 - Locking doors when away from home

Additional information regarding FPS district school safety and security can be found here:

<https://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/school-safety-security>