



# Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program

## Who is JFLIP for?

- The program is designed for primary school-aged children and their families
- It may be appropriate for children as young as 4 or as old as 14
- The staff involved in the program will let you know whether JFLIP is appropriate for your family, and may suggest other services that can help.

## Does it work?

- JFLIP has provided assistance to over 500 children and their families
- Research shows a success rate of over 90%. Most of the children who go through the program stop their unsafe fire behaviour.

## What happens in the program?

- The program is delivered in your home by trained JFLIP firefighters
- It is a family-based program, so everybody who lives in the house will be involved.

The JFLIP firefighters will make several visits to your home. They will:

- Help you to manage your child's fire lighting behaviour
- Teach you and your child how to make the home and family safe from fire
- Teach your child about the consequences of fire, and the difference between good fires and bad fires
- Help your child to take responsibility for their actions
- Help your child to feel good about themselves for being fire safe.

## What is JFLIP?

The Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program (JFLIP) is a free, confidential, state-wide service to help families deal with child fire lighting behaviour.

## How can I enrol my child in the program?

If you are the parent or guardian of a child who is playing with fire, you can contact JFLIP for advice or assistance.

**FREECALL**

**1800 182 341**

[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

[communityed@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:communityed@fire.tas.gov.au)

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Your personal information will not be disclosed for any purpose other than that for which it has been collected by us except if required or allowed by law.

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You can obtain further details about our policies on the management of personal information by contacting, the TFS Freedom of Information Officer [communityed@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:communityed@fire.tas.gov.au)



## Helping families solve the problem of child fire lighting

**JFLIP**

**Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program**

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## Why do children light fires?

There are a range of reasons why children might light fires:

- Curiosity about fire
- Fascination with fire
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Peer pressure
- Anger
- Revenge.

Younger children tend to light fires in and around their homes. They usually don't mean to cause damage and don't understand how dangerous fire can be.

Fire lighting can also be a sign that a child is worried or upset about something, and they may need extra help from other services.

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Most children will show curiosity about fire at some stage. This is natural and normal.

## This natural interest in fire is a problem if it develops into:

- Playing with matches or lighters
- Experimenting with fire
- Lighting fires
- Experimenting with bombs or aerosol cans.

## Warning signs:

- Missing matches or lighters
- Matches or lighters in your child's room, pockets or bag
- Burnt items such as paper or garden rubbish
- Burn marks on toys, clothes or bedding
- Burn marks in the house or cubby house
- Smell of something burnt
- Strong interest in fire or talking about fire a lot.

## What can you do?

### Supervise and educate your children:

- Supervise your children at all times, especially around fire, cooking and heating
- Teach your children that fire is a tool for adults to use, not a toy
- Don't let your children use fire – helping with lighting the fire or burning off makes children think that they can control fire
- Teach your children facts about fire safety and the consequences of fire.

### Remove the temptation:

- Lock away matches and lighters – just like you lock away medicines and other dangerous household substances
- Teach your children to bring you any unattended matches or lighters they find and reward them for their honesty
- If you are a smoker, think about giving up, smokers are more likely to have children who light fires.

### Make your home fire safe:

- Lead by example – reduce the risk of fire by using fire, cooking, heating and electricity safely
- Have **working** photoelectric **smoke alarms** in all the bedrooms and the hall outside bedrooms.

### Make a plan to get them out alive:

- Everybody in the house should know what to do if there is a fire – have a family escape plan and practice it.