

COMBUSTIBLE

their rescue. The parents had been visiting relatives just two miles away.

Children left alone need very few minutes in which to crawl into trouble, the National Board warns. There should always be an adult to watch over them. If baby-sitters are left in charge of children, they should be instructed:

1. In case of emergency, to get the children out of the house immediately.
2. To call the fire department after the children are safe. (Leave the number next to the telephone. If there's no phone, see that the baby-sitter knows how to turn in an alarm.)
3. Leave a number where you can be reached during the evening.
4. Always return promptly at the time specified.

Often children are left alone in a room if their mother has gone down to the basement for a minute or two. To safeguard against their creeping into mischief, nothing dangerous should be left within reach. Matches should be placed on a high shelf. If possible, children should be kept out of the kitchen. If they do go into the kitchen, see

Above: Clothes should be made safe with a flameproofing solution if children are to be around an open fire.

Left: Electric cords should be frequently checked for repairs.

Below: Children should never be allowed to play with fire.



that pot handles are turned so that they won't jut beyond the edge of the stove. Toasters, other electric appliances shouldn't be within reach of youngsters.

Since the stove was found by the government survey to have started one in two fires where the causes were known, that should be the logical place to start a fire-safety check of the entire house. There should be no trouble with a stove if it's properly constructed and tended carefully.

Perhaps the most important rule to remember with wood or coal stoves is: Don't use gasoline or kerosene to start a fire. They are dangerously explosive. The stove should be cleaned thoroughly before attempting to start a fire. All fuel should be stored away from it.

With kerosene or portable oil stoves, be sure that the one you have is listed by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. It should be of heavy enough construction and so situated that it can't be tipped over by a child. It should be cleaned and when set down, placed on level floor to avoid tipping. Don't fill it or move it when it's lighted. When using it, be sure the room is properly ventilated. This is especially important on winter nights when windows might be closed.

For children's protection, always keep a metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks from popping.

Electric cords and household appliances should be looked over frequently for repairs. A three-year old Long Island boy lost his life at home recently when he played with an exposed electric lamp cord, accidentally grounding it on a radiator. Children can't be expected to know about or be careful of defective cords. See that all electric cords are inspected every so often for breaks. Electric appliances needing repairs should be turned over to an experienced repairman, not the home handyman, who, though enthusiastic, is usually not well qualified.

General safety rules apply outdoors as well as indoors. If children are playing in the yard or a vacant lot, make sure they don't get near any fires unless an adult is with them.

Children would not suffer such severe burns in fire if they wore more durable, closely woven clothes. A six-year old youngster recently died of burns when, eager to surprise her mother after a Halloween party, she attempted to light a candle in her pumpkin. She dropped the match on her party dress and up it went in flames as her mother answered the door.

Flimsy cottons and net fabrics aren't practical for children. If they do wear them, see that they are made safe with a flameproofing solution. A simple rinse of 9 ounces borax, 4 ounces boric acid, and 1 gallon of water can be used after each washing, repeated each time the garment is laundered.