



CO Topic: Housing

Lesson Topic	Home Safety
Objective	Refugees will show awareness of home safety behaviors by taking part in a demonstration of safety procedures and correctly relaying this information to other family members or a friend.
Lesson Time	45 minutes
Materials	Matches and a candle (for smoke detector)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In your home country, did you need to close and lock the door? Why or why not?• Who was responsible for watching the children when they were playing outside the home?• When the neighbors were away, did you watch out for their home and children? Why or why not?• Do you expect that your neighbors in the United States will watch out for your home and your children? Why or why not?
Practice	<p>Locking and Unlocking Doors and Windows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Starting with the front door, demonstrate to the refugees how to lock and then unlock the door. Explain that in the United States, it is very important that they lock their doors to keep out thieves or people who might want to do them harm.2. Have the refugees practice locking and unlocking the front door and then practice on other doors in the house if available.3. Demonstrate the locks and latches on the windows and have the refugees practice unlocking and locking these as well. <p>Answering the Door</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain to refugees that in the United States, people should always knock before entering someone's house.2. The trainer should have the refugee pretend to be a visitor and go outside of the home and knock on the door. The trainer will pretend to be the refugee and demonstrate answering by looking through the peephole (if available), then asking "Who is it?" and deciding whether to open the door.3. Explain to refugees that if they feel threatened by the person outside the door that they should not open it, and that children should never open the door for a stranger, even if the stranger is an adult.4. Refugees should practice the information in step 2, with the trainer (or others) pretending to be different visitors and the refugee asking, "Who is it?" and deciding whether to unlock the door. <p>Understanding Smoke Detectors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Show refugees where each smoke detector is in the home. Explain that the purpose of the smoke detector is to alert the family to smoke, which could mean that there is a fire, and that the properly functioning smoke detector is very sensitive.2. Light a candle and hold it up to the smoke detector. If there is enough smoke, the detector will sound.3. If the candle does not give off enough smoke, push the test button on the smoke detector so that refugees can hear the alarm. Explain that even the smoke from cooking can set off the alarm (and in fact often does). Tell them that when they hear the alarm, they must check for smoke. If the smoke is from cooking, they can open the window or fan the smoke away from the detector, and the alarm will subside. However, if no one is cooking, it is possible that there is a fire somewhere in the home. They should gather their family and leave the house, calling 911 from a safe distance to report a fire emergency.4. If appropriate, refugees can practice leaving the house in the event of a possible fire.