

Living Safely

with disabilities and special health needs

Campfire Safety

Before setting up to light a campfire, make sure you ask if it is allowed. Call the local fire department or ask at the campground to be sure.

A campfire should only be set up by someone who knows exactly how to do it and has set a campfire before. If you do not know how, do not set a campfire. Instead, allow someone who is an expert to teach you.

If a campfire is allowed, make sure it is set up more than 25 feet away from anything that can burn. This includes buildings, furniture, and other objects. This also includes dry leaves, sticks, overhanging low branches, and shrubs.

Avoid lighting a campfire on a windy or dry day. On days that are dry or windy, a fire can spread and burn other things. A fire can grow larger and spread out of control.

Before lighting the campfire, make sure children and pets keep a safe distance away from the fire at all times.

Only light a campfire with someone else who is there to help. If you are afraid of fire or unsure how to light a campfire, ask someone who you trust to help.

Always have a water hose or bucket of water nearby. You can also have a shovel and dirt or sand nearby. These will be used to put out the fire.

To start a campfire, only use matches or a lighter. Never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids to start a campfire or to keep a campfire lit.

Keep a campfire small so it is easier to control.

Watch the campfire at all times. A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a big and damaging fire.

If you are roasting marshmallows, be careful when lifting the marshmallow away from the fire. Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball and injure someone.

A heated metal skewer can cause burns. Using sticks can be a safe alternative. Be careful the stick does not catch on fire.

Make sure to put it completely out before leaving the site.

If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll: Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

We value the expertise of our partners in safety who have demonstrated their commitment to inclusive healthy communities.

The information contained in *Living Safely with Disabilities and Special Health Needs (Living Safely)* is provided for educational and informational purposes only. The content contains general information and may not reflect a person's individual needs or current legal developments or information. Children's Specialized Hospital makes no guarantee, either communicated or implied, about the accuracy, application, appropriateness, or completeness of the information within *Living Safely*, or at any other website to which it is linked. Children's Specialized Hospital specifically relinquishes all liability with respect to any person's actions, taken or not taken, based upon any or all of the information or other contents from *Living Safely*.

This initiative was funded in part by an Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant from the Division of Disability Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services.

Children's
Specialized Hospital
An RWJBarnabas Health facility