



# My Dad Is a Firefighter

**OBJECTIVE:** Read to learn what firefighters do on the job.

**STANDARDS:** Social Studies (NCSS): Individuals, groups, and institutions; Science: Personal health

**“When Alex grows up, he wants to be a firefighter too!”**

## BEFORE READING

### Specific Word Instruction

**Focus on the word “firefighter” to teach word parts.** Point to the word *firefighter* on the cover and ask, “What two smaller words are in this big word?” (*fire, fighter*) Next, point out that *fighter* is made with the action word *fight* and the ending *-er*. Explain, “When you add *-er* to an action word, it means *someone who*. For example, a teacher is someone who teaches. So what is a fighter?” (*someone who fights*) Then ask, “What is a firefighter?” (*someone who fights fire*)

## DURING READING

### Understand Text Features

**Help children identify speech bubbles.**

At the bottom of page 3, ask, “What is different about the red words?” Explain that this is called a **speech bubble**. It shows the words that someone says. Then ask, “Who is saying the words? How do you know?” Elicit that speech bubbles point to the person who’s talking. Invite children to take turns reading Alex’s speech bubble aloud.

## AFTER READING

### Evaluate

**Invite children to share their opinions on firefighting.**

Ask, “Would you like doing Alex’s father’s job? Why or why not?” Encourage children to use specific reasons. For instance, some children might like the excitement of hurrying to a fire, while others might like the chance of helping people. Remind children they must wait until they are grown up if they want to try firefighting. After all, it takes a lot of strength and training!

## READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

### Meet Alex and Dad

- Alex and his dad have a lot in common. When Alex grows up, he wants to be a firefighter too! He and his dad also have the same first name.
- Alex is in first grade. His sister, Stephanie, is in fifth grade. Sometimes, they visit their dad at work. They have helped wash the fire truck. They even rode in the truck in a parade.
- Alex says he’s proud of his dad. He thinks firefighters are cool because they help save people. Stephanie says her dad saves more than people—he saves their pets too.

### Gear Up, Firefighters!

- **Turnout gear** is another name for the suit Alex’s dad wears. It is made from special cloth. It protects firefighters’ bodies because it doesn’t catch fire easily. **Boots** help protect their feet.
- **Helmets** and **hoods** protect firefighters’ eyes, ears, and necks. **Masks** help keep them from breathing too much smoke.

### Alex’s Dad at Work

- When Alex’s dad is at work, he eats and sleeps at the **firehouse**. The firefighters take turns living there, so someone is always ready if there’s a fire.
- The firehouse has bedrooms, bathrooms, and a kitchen, just like a regular house. It also has a big garage for the fire trucks.

### Alex’s Safety Tips

- If there’s a fire, get out and stay out! Get down and crawl if there’s smoke. Feel a door with the back of your hand before opening it. If it’s hot, keep it closed. Find another way out.
- Never hide from firefighters. People like Alex’s dad are there to help you! Call out for help so they can find you.