

Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog Book Reviews

"Sparkles the Dalmatian has her paw on the pulse of fire safety as she helps teach children how to prevent and escape a house fire."

Michael Tercha, Chicago Tribune webpage

"Two paws up and a tail wag for *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog!*"

Jenni Glenn, PBS KIDS Sprout

"Dayna Hilton is providing an invaluable service that is as kid safe as it is kid friendly. Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog is charming on paper or read aloud and an excellent tool in furthering the hugely important crusade of children's fire safety."

Alan Brunacini, Retired Phoenix Fire Chief

"Sparkles is a Fire Safety Dog from Clarksville, Arkansas that travels with firefighter Dayna Hilton teaching fire safety messages to children all across the United States. Together the two have reached millions of children and their caregivers. The National Fire Protection Association, in 2007, stated that there were more than 1.5 million fires reported in the United States, with 3,430 civilian deaths and 17,675 civilian injuries and Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna hope to change these statistics, one presentation at a time. Sparkle's tail wags in excitement about learning and teaching fire safety together and riding in the big red fire truck! Dayna begins this book by highlighting important words or phrases that should be explained to children much like she begins her presentation when visiting local elementary schools. This book teaches the most important fire safety information that children should be learning at a young age to be prepared in case of a fire emergency. The photos help to illustrate what is being taught and Sparkles participates as well, crawling and getting low. Children are also taught how firefighters will keep them safety and why they wear "special clothes" in a fire. This is a wonderful learning tool for children! *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* literally is a brilliant quick and easy read for children. Not only will they learn the importance of fire safety, but also by using the beautiful Dalmatian dog in colorful pictures throughout the book, it almost guarantees this becoming a child's favorite book to read and re-read all the while re-learning the importance of fire safety. Reading gives children skills in handling complex thoughts, ideas and teachings. *DogSport Magazine* recommends every classroom investing in bringing this book into elementary schools to help in teaching fire safety." ***DogSport Magazine***

"It's so AWESOME!"

Steven Peltier, age 5

"Children love reading the same books over and over. A fire safety book is one way to provide the repetition needed for young children to master home fire safety messages. Firefighter Dayna, Firefighter Michael, and Sparkles give us a book to enjoy while we learn!"

Nancy Trench, Oklahoma State University, Fire Protection Publications/IFSTA



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"Written by firefighter Dayna Hilton, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* is a wonderful, flat-spined children's picture book about the basics of fire safety - as taught with assistance from Sparkles, a friendly female dalmatian. Illustrated with full-color photographs of the real Sparkles and her friends on virtually every page, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* tells young readers what to do if they hear the noise from a smoke alarm: "In case of fire, be sure to crawl low under the smoke on your hands and knees. The air is cleaner and cooler there. Get low and go to your outside meeting place." A great way for parents to introduce their children to doing fire drills, especially sure to appeal to young dog lovers." **The Midwest Book Review / Children's Bookwatch (Reviewer's Choice Review)**

"Instilling fire safety in young children is vitally important. *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* and Firefighters Dayna and Michael make learning these important safety messages fun, and easy to understand so that our children will be able to know what to do in the event of a fire. Congratulations on a wonderful book!"

Heather Schafer, Executive Director, National Volunteer Fire Council

"In a fun, simple and easily understandable format, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* presents to children of all ages keen insights on fire safe behaviors certain to be remembered should the need arise. Such could mean all the difference in a safe and healthy life." **Wayne Powell, Fire/Life Safety Specialist, Marriott International**

"Young children will love *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*...a spotted dog, friendly firefighters, and safety lessons designed just for them! The book is a great tool to help kids learn – without scaring them -- how to be safe from fire, a leading cause of accidental death at home." **Meri-K Appy, President, Home Safety Council**

"I can't wait to share it with my two grandkids!"

Chief Dennis Compton, International Fire Service Training Association

"My 3 year old daughter loves this book and CD. In a matter of 2 readings, she knows the theme song, what a smoke alarm does, and how to stay low and go like Sparkles!" **Lesla, a mom and former firefighter-10 yrs**

"Each night that we have read *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*, Cole continues to tell ME how HE will get out of the house in case of fire." **Carrie, mother of Cole, age 3**

"This book is a great educational tool for the public education officers. Children and elderly are the most vulnerable age groups when it comes to fire. In this book, Sparkles has done great to educate our children"

Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah, P.E., EFO, CBO, Fire Protection Engineer, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

"I think the book is very well done and will be a significant job aid for fire safety educators of children. It also provides an opportunity for the fire safety educator, school teacher or maybe even the fire chief to read to children. I think this will be a tool that should be in every fire safety educator's tool box."

**Division Chief Mike Love, Division of Community Risk Reduction Services,
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, Rockville, MD**

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"Our family loves Sparkles... my son first met her while watching Sprout and so when we heard she had a book, we of course had to go and get it. Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna make fire safety fun and not scary. My son knows what to do if there is a fire - Get low and go!!! For fire safety month, we donated this book to all the classrooms at my son's daycare. All the teachers love it!! The large pictures make it easy to read to a class so everyone can see. Thanks Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna for keeping our kids safe!!!" **Kiyoko Czech, Chicago**

"This Labor Day weekend is a marvelous time to introduce a memorable working dog. Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog is a delightful Dalmatian who travels with Firefighter Dayna Hilton to teach children about fire safety. Dalmatians are energetic and fun loving dogs; originally bred to run in front of horse drawn fire wagons and clear the street. They have been closely connected with firefighters ever since.

The book follows a typical day as Sparkles and Dayna get ready and present their fire safety demonstration to a group of school children. Safety tips are well presented in a way to which children can relate. Ms. Hilton and her dogs donate their time and energy to fire safety. Together, they have given hundreds of demonstrations to children throughout Arkansas. *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* is highly recommended.

Sparkles appears to be Ms. Hilton's life changing dog. They are lucky to be able to work and live together; each one enriches the other. This little Dalmatian is the connection that draws children and is entertaining enough to hold their attention. Pictures throughout this book show the deep bond that Dayna and Sparkles have. Sparkle's face has such a sweet expression as Dayna slips the vest over her shoulders. Particularly, I love the shot of Sparkles smiling into the camera, her tail wagging so vigorously it's a blur. What a great idea it was to teach Sparkles to crawl in order to demonstrate crawling under the smoke layer of a burning building. Kudos to Dayna.

Sparkles is an excellent example of how dogs can be a service to the community. She is a wonderful ambassador for her species and her breed. Animals reach children in ways no human will ever touch. They bridge a much needed connection not by demanding, cajoling or threatening, but just by being themselves. I wish the very best success to Dayna, Sparkles and all of the others who represent one of the noblest occupations one can have."

Charlotte Mielziner, Children's Dog Book and Review

"Sparkles, the part I like of your book [*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*] is were you teach the people about fire safety..... I appreciate you teaching us how to be fire safe. Keep teaching people fire safety Sparkles."

Patricia, Age 9

"I wish that you can come back to our school again to teach us fire safety skills. The book [*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*] that you gave me , I learned to crawl on my knees when there is a fire in the house and you always have a meeting place by the mailbox or by a the fence." **Ron, age 9**

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"I certainly would recommend it for your fire and life-safety education program for primary school children."

Janet Wilmoth, Editorial Director, Fire Chief Publications

"They [the class] LOVED the book!! They were so impressed with Sparkles, she is all they talked about! They all want a fire dog now!! I think the book looks great!!!! I love the real pictures that really made it believable!!"

Mrs. Kelli Grigsby, Kindergarten Teacher

"Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog by Dayna Hilton teaches children all about fire safety. Dayna is a firefighter and currently serves as a Public Fire and Life Safety educator in Clarksville, Arkansas. With the help of her father and son who are also firefighters, she developed a complete package of fire safety information that's sure to delight children as it teaches.

Her book walks you through a day in the life of Sparkles as she helps Dayna teach children fire safety. The photographs in the book show Dayna, her son Michael and Sparkles get ready for the day and how they help children learn what to do in case of a fire.

For little ones who can't read yet, Dayna has an audio CD available where the story is read with and without page turning prompts. Included on the CD is a song about Sparkles." **Zooprise Party Blog**

"I liked the book [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog]. I liked the good meeting places and how to get out of the house on time also how to get out of the house. I will show it to my family." **Mark, Age 9**

"I like the book a lot. It showed me a lot of stuff. Like if I was in a real fire and a smoke alarm would make noise like beep beep beep and would tell you fire fire fire a fire because my smoke alarm does that too."

Brenda, Age 10

"Sparkles I like [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog] because Sparkles help kids have fire safety. Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog is a great book. My mom and dad love it. I love that Sparkles can do things and fire safety."

Aaron, Age 10

"I liked the picture when Sparkles was crawling low to demonstrate to us how to crawl low.... Also I liked the picture when Sparkles was in the bed LOL!!!" **Rebeca, Age 9**

"I liked the book [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog] because it taught me what I have to do if there was a real fire. Oh, and to change my batteries in my smoke alarm. Your book taught me a lot of things." **Nisea, Age 9**

"I learned from the book [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog] is that having a fire alarm is important. Dayna I think that Sparkles is glad to have you as a mom and I like your book very much so thank you." **Kayla, Age 9**

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"If you have a little firefighter-in-the-making, like my son Seth, no doubt he or she will adore Sparkles. And, you as a parent, will applaud the message of this book that is really a must-read for every child. There is also an entertaining CD available, which features Sparkles barking and story narration by Firefighters Dayna Hilton and Glenn Trembley.

"Sparkles visits schools to help children learn about fire safety. Together, with real-life Firefighters Dayna and Michael, smoke alarms are explained, and instruction is given re: how/why to crawl low under smoke in case of a fire, why we should practice fire drills, etc. Sparkles watches Firefighter Michael put on his protective clothing, and thanks him by wagging her tail, for being a firefighter. Big, colorful photographs of Sparkles in action hold a child's interest, and tips are outlined in language easily-understandable for children. This is a powerful learning tool, yet it capably offers information in a fun manner. I know my son would love Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna to pay a visit to his school. "

Robin Gorman Newman, *Motherhood Later than Sooner* Founder

"*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* turns a scary subject into a fun learning experience. Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna show children and adults how to be safe during a fire or suspected fire. The real life photos of Sparkles demonstrating fire safety to children are fun to look at as well as instructional.

My six year-old son loved Sparkles so much that we had to read it to his kindergarten class. His classmates were captivated by Sparkles. They wanted me to read about Sparkles again and again. We even went back and discussed every picture. Their favorite picture was Sparkles in his own bed! The fun pictures kept all eyes and attention on the book. The kindergarteners wanted to know if Sparkles was a real dog and if he could come visit them.

Thanks Firefighter Dayna for sharing your special dog with children all over the world. Fire safety has never been so fun!"

Pamela Maynard, Freelance writer and mother of Justin, Age 6

"*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* by Dayna Hilton teaches children all about fire safety. Dayna is a firefighter and currently serves as a Public Fire and Life Safety educator in Clarksville, Arkansas. With the help of father and son who are also firefighters, she developed a complete package of fire safety information that's sure to delight children as it teaches.

Her book walks you through a day in the life of Sparkles as she helps Dayna teach children fire safety. The photographs in the book show Dayna, her son Michael and Sparkles get ready for the day and how they help children learn what to do in case of a fire.

Dayna has taken this book beyond reading in many ways. First she has an audio CD available where the story is read with and without page turning prompts. There is also a song about Sparkles. ... This is a must have book for all families with young children. You never know, these lessons could save your life."

Joy Delgado, *Books Beyond Reading Blog*

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