

# Pine Haven's treatment for boys with fire setting behaviors is a 9 step program

## Step One

**Assessment:** Children who engage in fire behaviors do so for many different reasons. This assessment is a clinical look at the behavior through clinical interviews, as well as clinical tools such as the Jesness Inventory and the Child/Parent Fire Setting Interview.

## Step Two

**Fire Safety Group:** The number one intervention for this behavior is fire safety and education. The child learns about fire science, prevention, survival, and the fire service. He also learns about decision making, making amends, empathy building and understanding how his behaviors connect to thoughts and feelings. Taking responsibility for the behavior is important to the child's personal growth and development as well as long term success.



### About Pine Haven Boys Center

Pine Haven's philosophy can be summarized in two statements:

1. "There is no such thing as a bad child."
2. "Children need and are entitled to their families."

Pine Haven feels that as a child has acquired destructive and unhealthy patterns of behavior, given the opportunity, he can relearn more productive and adequate habits. Pine Haven also sees children as components of the family system and values family as equal, respected and active partners. Pine Haven believes that families play a unique role in the child's development and growth; families can change and successfully reunite.

**Mission Statement:** Pine Haven is committed to providing children with positive experiences and success oriented programs. The process is to identify appropriate behaviors: catching the child doing right. The ultimate goal is to have the youngster return to his family, school and community. When reunification is not the plan, Pine Haven is committed to promoting the optimal, possible level of involvement between the child and his family. Pine Haven honors the dignity, resource, and strengths of families and is dedicated to involving them in all major decisions affecting their children.

To find out more about Pine Haven and treatment for boys with fire setting behaviors please contact Joyce Pollinger, Clinical Director at (603) 485-7141 or by email [joyce\\_pollinger@comcast.net](mailto:joyce_pollinger@comcast.net)

# Pine Haven Boys Center

---

## About Our Treatment Program for Boys with Fire Setting Behaviors



**133 River Road  
Allenstown, NH 03275**

**(603) 485-7141**

---

### Step Three:

**Stabilization:** The child must demonstrate behaviors that show he is able to be safe and follow staff/parent directions on campus, within the program, and out in the community. This is evidenced by the point and level system at Pine Haven.

### Step Four

**Safety Plans:** Plans developed with the family through both the work of the child's Family Worker and Therapist in conjunction with the child's parents and with Clinical Director conducting the Fire Safety Group. Safety plans are a tool for the family to utilize during visits, providing the child and parents with structured plan of action and rules for safety.

### Step Five

**Social Skills Development:** Research supports that many children with fire setting behaviors have difficulties with developing and maintaining appropriate social relationships. The child works in the program on improving coping skills, anger management, problem solving and communication skills. These skills are practiced daily through the residential milieu, individual therapy and group therapy.

### Step Six

**Community Service/Restitution:** The Child is required to complete a community service project that teaches responsibility. Some children come to us with restitution as part of the consequences for their behavior. If the child has been successful in his treatment he will

have an opportunity to become a Fire Safety Assistant. He will also visit the local fire department and talk with the fire officials.

### Step Seven

**Parent Fire Safety Workshop:** We provide a three day, 2 hours per day, workshop series for parents. Parents will learn about the science of fire, fire prevention, safety and survival. There are also components on the



scope of the juvenile fire setting problem, why children use fire, the typologies of fire behaviors, safe proofing the home, parenting and supervision.

### Step Eight

**Evaluation:** The evaluation process is ongoing as the child's behavior changes as the family work/therapy evolves to address the needs of the family. The child and family need to develop strategies to manage the child's safety in the community.

### Step Nine

**Community Connections:** The program facilitates community connection, supporting parents in finding programming for their child in preparation for reunification, this includes everything from PCP, dentist, someone to conduct medication management, therapy, and community activities for age appropriate interaction.

Pine Haven is a residential treatment center for boys ages 6-14. We have a formal program that includes assessment, therapy and a psycho educational component for the children and families in fire education, understanding the dynamics of fire setting behavior, communication and limit setting.

Joyce Pollinger, LICSW, Pine Haven's Clinical Director, has extensive clinical and administrative experience in residential settings and is specialized as a Fire Assessment Diagnostician in the State of Massachusetts where she assessed and treated children with fire issues for 12 years. In Massachusetts, Joyce spearheaded a residential program for children with fire setting behavior. She was recognized for this accomplishment by the Massachusetts Juvenile Fire Setting Coalition in November of 1994 when she was presented with the Beacon Award at the annual conference.

