The Story of the Fire Spirit

Long ago when only Native Americans lived in this land of ours, there was a Little Fire Spirit who lived with the Indians and gave them the spark to kindle their fires. He had been sent to dwell, on the earth by the Great Spirit to whom they prayed, as we pray in our places of worship today. Now this little Fire Spirit decided that he would like to have a place of his own in which to live, so first he gathered some nice, soft, dry grass for a bed. Then after he had made his bed, he gathered many very tiny twigs and built over his bed a teepee just like the ones in which the people lived. He was careful to see which way the wind was blowing and made the door into his teepee on that side so he would have a breeze to cool him off. (Fire Spirits are so warm, you know.)

After the teepee was built and the day's work of fire lighting was done, the Little Fire Spirit decided to go hunting and off he went into the woods.

While he was gone the settlers came in a ship from far across the sea and the first thing they did was search for a place to live. When they found the lovely hilltop where the Little Fire Spirit had built his teepee, they thought it a perfect place for their cabin. Finding no one in the teepee, they gathered logs (kindling size wood) and built a cabin right around the teepee. They even covered it on top with a log roof.

When the poor Little Fire Spirit returned from his hunting trip he didn't have a place to live. Sadly he looked at the sky and said, "Oh, Great Spirit, what should I do?" The Great Spirit looked down on his little one and said, "Now that the settlers have come with their flint it isn't necessary for you to live on the earth any longer, so go into your teepee, lie down on your bed and I will bring you to live with me."

Now, when a match is lit and touched to the dry grass through the teepee door, the first little puff of white smoke which rises before the flame begins is the Little Fire Spirit going up to Heaven.

*This story can be told to your girls as they learn to build a teepee fire with a log cabin around it. As you read the story you will be able to visualize how it may be used effectively. For instance when the Little Fire Spirit gathers dry grass and tiny twigs for his house, you can at the same time demonstrate the method of building the foundation to a teepee fire.*