



Preparing Children for Emergencies

Hold Emergency Drills

Allowing the children to participate in emergency drills builds their self-confidence and will allow them some security in knowing how to respond during emergencies. Make drills as realistic as possible. Sound the alarm so they become familiar with the sound. Have the staff talk to the children about what they are doing and why. Practice a variety of scenarios (natural and man-made disasters and include a lock-down drill as well. Remind children that there may be times you will need to evacuate the building and go to another location so they are aware of the possibility of this occurring.

Take- A –Long Supplies for Children

In the event of an evacuation it is important to have provisions to keep the children occupied. You may want to have a rolling trash can full of activities for the children. Here are some suggestions:

Grab & Go Kits for Children

Use a gallon size zip and seal bag to create individual activity bags for each child in the program. Each bag includes:

- A recent photo of the child
- Laminated emergency card (emergency contact information)
- A small notebook for doodling
- Book(s)
- Paper, pencils, 4-6 crayons, markers
- Puzzles
- Manipulatives
- No battery required games