

Resources for parents and child care providers on preparing for emergencies

Child Care Aware® of America Emergency Preparedness

Tools, publications, resources, and up-to-date news is available at www.ChildCarePrepare.org.

Family Readiness Kit: Are You Prepared for Disasters? (2016)

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) shares this kit to assist families in preparing for most types of disasters. You can find it at https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/disasters_family_readiness_kit.pdf.

American Red Cross Disaster and Safety Library

Fact sheets, preparedness checklists, recovery guides, and other helpful information to keep you informed and safe can be found at www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster-safety-library.

Coping With a Disaster or Traumatic Event

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a variety of resources to assist families in understanding and coping with traumatic events. Resources include tip sheets, videos, and articles at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/>.

Our Mission

We advance a child care system that effectively serves all children and families. Our work is strengthened by a national network of child care resource and referral agencies and diverse members and partners.

Our Vision

Every family in the United States has access to a high-quality, affordable child care system. The child care system supports children's growth, development, and educational advancement and creates positive economic impact for families and communities.

ChildCarePrepare.org

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Parents: Is Your Child Care Program Prepared for a Disaster?

Our nation's leading voice for child care.



When looking for a child care program, your most important consideration is the safety and well-being of your child. Knowing your child will be cared for in a healthy and secure environment that has appropriate safety measures in place is a top priority.

You should consider whether your child care program has a plan in place for emergency situations. These situations include not only medical emergencies, but also weather- and disaster-related emergencies.

Most of us are aware of natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, but there are also technological disasters that can impact a child care program. We all need to be as prepared as possible and have plans in place for any kind of disaster or emergency. This is especially critical for programs and schools with young children.

For parents with children in child care, knowing what kind of plan is in place, and what to do in case of emergencies, is essential. **Make sure you know the what, when, where, and how of your child care provider's emergency action plan by asking these 10 questions.**

1. Do you have an emergency preparedness plan for disasters that are likely to occur in our area?

Make sure they have one. Ask for a copy of it.

If they do not have a plan, find out when they will. Let them know you feel it is necessary.

2. How will you safely evacuate my child to safe, predetermined location?

Find out what procedures will be used, how

the children will be moved and where. Make sure the place they move to is safe and acceptable to you. Ask if there is a secondary evacuation location.

If your child has special needs, make sure your provider will take these into consideration.

3. How and when will I be notified if a disaster occurs when my child is in child care?

Make sure you have at least two ways to be contacted; including another person with whom messages could be left for you (someone out of your geographic area would be ideal).

Keep your contact information current: phone numbers, other people who can reach you, etc.

Find out if there is a person/number you can call, or a central phone number that will have information.

4. If I cannot get to my child during or after the disaster, how will you continue to care for my child?

Provide any extra supplies and important information the provider will need to care for your child for a longer period of time.

Discuss any plans or procedures you do not agree with or understand.

5. Have you and your staff received training on how to respond to my child's physical and emotional needs during and after a disaster?

Training in responding to emergencies is critical. Find out how the provider will help calm and reassure children, as well as provide first aid.

Ask how vital records on children are kept and are made available during a disaster.

Make the provider aware of your child's special needs.

6. Will you teach my older child what to do during an emergency?

Ask what kinds of drills the provider will have to help

older children follow directions and understand what they are to do.

Can parents participate in drills? This can help you learn what steps are being taken and to be comfortable about the plan.

7. Do you have a disaster kit or supply kit with enough items to meet my child's needs for at least 72 hours?

If a kit is not available, ask how you can help get one. Talk and work with other parents.

If your child is on regular medication, make sure the provider knows, and if possible, provide an extra supply to have on hand, just in case.

8. Do the state and local emergency management agencies and responders know about your child care program and where it is located?

Ensure local emergency management agencies know about the child care providers in the area.

9. How may I help you during and after a disaster?

Becoming familiar with the way disasters will be handled will help you see what can be done before and after a disaster.

Volunteer to help your provider prepare by organizing supplies, collecting or getting supplies donated, or organizing a "phone tree" of parents to make calls during or after a disaster.

Ask what other kinds of assistance are needed and volunteer.

Offer suggestions and solutions if you see needs they have not addressed.

10. After a disaster occurs, how will I be notified about your plan to reopen?

Ask if there is a phone number, website, or other way the child care program will notify parents of plans to reopen or not. Will you be informed or will it be up to you to contact them?