

What to Ask Your Care Provider About Emergencies

You expect your child care provider to be prepared for medical emergencies, but do they have a plan for weather and other disaster-related emergencies? Use this checklist to talk to your child's care provider and pre-school personnel and ask: "How are you prepared to protect children in case of a disaster?"

Written Plans

- 🍏 Do you have a written emergency plan that accounts for multiple types of disasters?
 - 🍏 Do you have an **evacuation** plan that includes moving kids to a safe offsite location?
 - 🍏 Do you have a **shelter-in-place** plan?
 - 🍏 Do you have a **lock down** plan?
 - 🍏 Do you have a family **reunification** plan?
 - What are your primary evacuation locations?
 - What information or identification is needed to pick up a child?

NOTE: While being aware of the safety measures in place at your child's program, you don't need access to a copy of the program's complete emergency plan, as sharing all its details or having it get into the wrong hands could compromise safety.

Little Ones and Special Needs

- 🍏 Is there a plan for infants or other children with **special needs or access and functional needs** who will need additional help evacuating?
- 🍏 Are plans in place for children needing medications or medical equipment?
- 🍏 Do local emergency responders have a copy of the plan?

Communications

- 🍏 What emergency **communications** plans do you have in place?
 - 🍏 How will I be notified in case of an emergency?
 - Do you have at least two ways to contact parents/guardians (e.g., cell phone, work phone, email etc.)?
 - Do you have an out-of-town contact on file for each child (in case local communications are affected)?
 - 🍏 Where will emergency information be posted (local broadcast news, social media, phone number etc.)?
 - 🍏 How can I contact the site during or after an emergency?

Storing Supplies and Information

- 🍏 Do you have a **disaster supplies kit**?
 - 🍏 Does the kit meet the needs of all staff and children for a minimum of 72 hours?
- 🍏 Do you have a plan to store and access vital program records in case of loss of power or damages?

Preparation and Drills

- 🍏 Do you practice emergency **drills**?

- 🍏 Do you drill for different types of emergencies (i.e., not just fire drills)?
- 🍏 Has the staff had adequate emergency training?

If your care provider does not have a plan:

- Have you expressed that having a plan is essential for the safety and well-being of your child?
- Have you considered sending your child elsewhere?
- Did you ask other parents to ask about emergency plans?

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CARE PROVIDER PREPARE!

- **Make a home plan.** Make sure that children are safe at home and at care/school. Identify ICE (In Case of Emergencies) contacts, evacuation routes, meet-up locations, and safe rooms for sheltering. Pack an emergency kit, including food, water, flashlights, radio, blankets, first aid supplies as well as activities and comfort items for your children.
- **Talk to children about emergencies.** Reassure them that in an emergency that there will be caring adults working to keep them safe-including their teachers.
- 🍏 **Help care providers stay up to date with your child’s medical and emergency contact information.** Is your provider aware of any special needs of your child, including medications and allergies?
- **Pack a comfort kit** for school with items that could help your child in an emergency—it may include an extra pair of clothes, a few snacks, a note from you, a stuffed animal.
- **Make a Wallet Card** with key information about your care provider’s emergency plan and keep it with you to reference during an emergency.

WALLET CARD TEMPLATE

CARE PROVIDER:

NAME:

PHONE.:

ALT. PHONE.:

PRIMARY EVACUATION LOCATION:

ALTERNATE EVACUATION LOCATION:

IN AN EMERGENCY:
SITE INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON:

SITE WILL CONTACT ME BY:

I CAN CONTACT CARE PROVIDER BY:
