

# DO THE PREP STEPS!

## Preschool

FIVE 30-MINUTE EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS LESSONS



# PREP RALLY

Emergency Preparedness Program



## ABOUT SAVE THE CHILDREN

Save the Children invests in childhood—every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States and around the world, we are dedicated to ensuring every child has the best chance for success. Our pioneering programs in 120 countries give children a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.

We've responded to humanitarian crises and disasters around the world for nearly 100 years. In the United States alone, we've helped more than 1 million children affected by disasters since Hurricane Katrina. We respond to every major disaster, facilitate long-term recovery and ensure children, families and communities are prepared.

Learn more at [SavetheChildren.org/GetReady](https://www.savethechildren.org/GetReady).

### Prep Step Lessons for Preschool

- Prep Step Introduction: Safety
- Prep Step 1: Knowing ICE Contacts
- Prep Step 2: Making a Plan
- Prep Step 3: Packing a Go-Bag
- Prep Step Review: What We Learned



Watch Now at [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)

Prep Step Lessons are also available for children in Grades K–2 and for Grades K–5.

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# WELCOME TO THE PREP RALLY!

The Prep Rally is Save the Children's emergency preparedness education program for children. Filled with games and activities, the Prep Rally makes preparedness doable and fun while teaching kids the basics they need to develop lifelong safety skills. Best of all, it can be shaped to fit the specific needs of your program.



Less than half of American families have an emergency plan, but research shows that families of children who bring home preparedness materials are 75 percent more likely to have a plan. Children are powerful change agents. By providing them safety skills now, we are securing our future.

Thank you for choosing the Prep Rally and being a champion for children in your community!

For additional resources, please visit:

Prep Rally Resource Page: [www.savethechildren.org/PrepRally](http://www.savethechildren.org/PrepRally).

Get Ready Get Safe Website: [www.savethechildren.org/GetReady](http://www.savethechildren.org/GetReady).

## PREP STEP LESSONS PRESCHOOL

These simple 30-minute lessons help bring core safety concepts to life through short turnkey sessions that correspond with the Prep Step Song and Dance ([SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](http://SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep)).

<b>Prep Step Introduction: Safety</b>	Learn about the things that make us feel safe and the importance of having a safety plan.
<b>Prep Step 1: Knowing ICE Contacts</b>	Know important facts about me and know who to call In Case of Emergency.
<b>Prep Step 2: Making a Plan</b>	Talk about exits and safe places in our homes.
<b>Prep Step 3: Packing a Go-Bag</b>	Know what types of supplies we might need in an emergency.
<b>Prep Step Review: What We Learned</b>	Share what we learned and what to do during an emergency.

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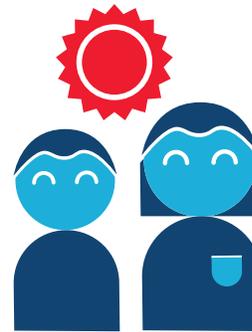
# GETTING STARTED: PREP RALLY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Register at [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)
- ✓ Identify audience, group size and age group
- ✓ Choose Prep Rally Guide and study lessons
- ✓ Set up time and location
  - If you're a volunteer, ask about volunteer policy and check-in protocol
  - Make sure you have enough space (indoor or outdoor) for each lesson's activities and games.
- ✓ Ensure you have the proper supplies (AV, internet, materials for activities, copies)
- ✓ Have a great event! (Don't forget to have fun!)
- ✓ Share your story through social media, newsletters and local media! (#PrepStep, #PrepRally, #GetReadyGetSafe)



# PREP STEP INTRO: SAFETY

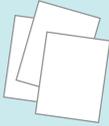
## SESSION OBJECTIVES



The Prep Step Intro session will help children:

- Identify people, places and things that make them feel safe.
- Understand that it's okay to feel scared or afraid during an emergency.
- Understand that they can make a plan and take actions that can help them feel safe.

Time: 30 Minutes

<p>Discussion</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction</li><li>• What Makes Us Feel Safe</li><li>• Storybook Discussion</li></ul>
<p>Activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheer</li><li>• What Makes Us Feel Safe</li><li>• Storybook Reading</li><li>• Introduce Prep Step Song</li></ul>
<p>Handouts</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What Makes You Feel Safe Worksheet</li></ul>
<p>Send Home</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family Disaster Checklist</li></ul>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Storybook (See Reading to Ready Booklist, pages 59–61)</li><li>• AV and internet for video</li><li>• Copies</li><li>• Pencils/crayons for each child</li></ul>

## Introduction

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***Today we're going to be talking a little bit about emergencies.***

***Do you know what an emergency is?***

An **emergency** is something that may cause harm or damage. You may not know it was going to happen and you may need help to respond to it. Some emergencies can happen because of accidents, such as a fire or a fall. Other emergencies may happen because of weather or the movement of the earth's surface, such as storms or earthquakes.

We are going to talk about emergencies today because there are some things we can do to help stay safe and feel safe.



### Cheer

---

***First, I want to teach you a cheer that can help us remember what we are talking about today.***

***When I say "Get Ready!" you say "Get Safe!"***

***Let's practice.***

Practice a few times, changing the pace and tones of your voice to keep it lively for children.

***Great Job!***



### What Makes Us Feel Safe Discussion

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**1. Have you ever seen a storm? What does a storm sound like? What about rain? What about wind? What about thunder?**

**2. Have you ever been afraid during an emergency or storm?**

It's okay to feel scared. In fact, it's normal to be scared. Emergencies can be scary.

**3. What do you do when you feel scared?**

**4. What is something that helps you feel safe?**

**Who are the people that make us feel safe?**

e.g., Parent, firefighter, friend, pet

**What are the things that make us feel safe?**

e.g., Stuffed animal, blanket, favorite toy, home,

**What are the places that make us feel safe?**

e.g., Home, school, Grandma's house

After children have shared, explain how during emergencies we can think of those things that comfort us to help feel safe. If they chose an item like a blanket or a stuffed animal, they can hold it during a storm to help feel safe.



## Storybook Reading and Discussion

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Select and read an emergency-themed story book from our [Reading to Ready Booklist](#) (pages 65–67) or another emergency-themed book of your choice.

Read aloud the book selection, teaching children what to do and how to act when emergencies happen.

Ask questions along the way to keep kids engaged. Ask them for help with words or identifying what's happening in the illustrations.

Afterwards ask questions about story, focusing on the characters reactions and actions:

- **What happened?**
- **How do you think the characters felt?**
- **What did the characters do?**
- **How did the characters keep themselves safe?**
- **Who helped the characters?**
- **What was your favorite part and why?**
- **Reinforce what the characters did and did not do with respect to safety, evacuation, sheltering and planning.**



## Do the Prep Step Dance

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Now it's time to get children up and moving, so make sure that children have a little space to move around.

Remind children of your earlier discussion about what made them feel safe.

Say:

***Part of feeling safe is making a plan to stay safe. We are going to be talking about different things we can do (or “Prep Steps” we can take) to help keep us safe in emergencies or disasters.***

***We can know who to call in case of an emergency. We call those people ICE (In Case of Emergency) Contacts.***

***We can make a plan with our families so that we know how to get out of our house or where to shelter inside.***

***We can pack a Go-Bag with emergency supplies in case we need to leave our home.***

***Now we are going to learn a song and dance called “The Prep Step” that will help us learn and remember these key parts of being safe. It’s okay if you don’t learn all the moves right away. We will practice each day as we learn about the Prep Steps.***

Play the [Prep Step Instructional Dance video](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep) (SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep). Help children follow along.

## Closing

---

Before ending the session, make sure to re-iterate key learning points.

### KEY POINTS:

- An emergency is something that might cause harm or damage.
- It’s normal to feel scared during an emergency.
- We can be comforted by thinking of the things that make us feel safe.
- Having a plan and doing the Prep Steps will also help us feel safe.
- Remember that during an emergency, there will always be caring adults such as parents, teachers, firefighters and police officers, working to keep you safe!

Thank children for their attention and participation.

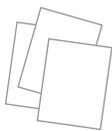
If there is time, have children complete their [What Makes You Feel Safe Worksheet](#). Send home the [Family Disaster Checklist](#) so that families can start talking about making an emergency plan.

***Do you remember our cheer?***

***Get Ready! Get Safe!***

## Materials

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**LINKS:** Prep Step Instructional Video: [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)

**HAND OUT:** What Makes You Feel Safe Worksheet

**SEND HOME:** Family Disaster Checklist

# WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SAFE?

Thinking about people, places or things that make us feel safe and protected can help comfort us during an emergency. We can prepare for emergencies by planning with people we care about and putting comfort items in our disaster supplies kits.



**DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SAFE.**





# DISASTER CHECKLIST

## FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES



Save the Children®

Get Ready. Get Safe.

*Do you have a plan in place to help ensure your children are safe and secure if a disaster strikes? If the worst happens, your children will look to you to know how to react and respond. Use this checklist to help prepare and keep your children safe in a disaster.*

### MAKE A FAMILY PLAN

*Before a disaster strikes, make sure you and your family all know these details to help stay safe.*

#### YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SHOULD DETERMINE:

- Which facilities will be used as shelters in your community in case of emergency
- A designated meet-up location if your family is separated
- A family contact outside of your area who would not be affected by a local disaster

### TEACH YOUR KIDS

*Your children may need to act in an emergency.*

#### MAKE SURE THEY KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

- Basic personal information to identify themselves if separated from you
- Home phone number
- How to dial 911
- Family's meet-up locations
- How to reach the family's out-of-town contact

### HAVE A COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

*Communication systems are often unreliable during emergencies. Be sure to have a back-up plan.*

- All family cell phones should have "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) programmed into their phone's contact list with all family phone numbers plus out-of-area contacts.
- Remind family members that text messages often get through in an emergency, even when a phone can't.

## CREATE A GO KIT

Prepare a backpack or portable bag for each family member with essential hygiene items and contact information in case you need to leave home.

### BE SURE TO INCLUDE:

- Each child's contact and medical information
- Recent photos of each child
- Comfort food and treats
- Activity items like books, puzzles and games
- Comfort items like a stuffed animal or blanket

## STOCK UP AT HOME

In addition to basic survival items like water, flashlights, a battery-powered radio and extra batteries, have these kid-friendly supplies on hand.

### NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

- Nursing supplies
- Formula
- Pre-packaged baby food
- Ready-to-eat canned foods and opener
- Juice pouches
- Non-perishable pasteurized milk
- Dry cereals, protein bars, fruit snacks
- Nuts and nut butters
- Vitamins

### MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- Fever reducer
- Antibacterial ointment
- Rash ointment
- Each child's medications

### PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

- Baby wipes
- Diapers
- Nursing pads
- Feminine products

## CHECK WITH YOUR CHILD CARE FACILITY

Since your children may be at a child care facility when disaster hits, make sure all caregivers have each child's most recent contact info.

Remember to ask the staff about their emergency plans. If they do not have a plan, you may want to ask them to create one.

For more information and support, visit:  
[www.savethechildren.org/getready](http://www.savethechildren.org/getready)

# PREP STEP 1: KNOWING ICE CONTACTS

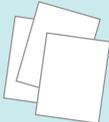
## SESSION OBJECTIVES



The Prep Step 1 session will help children:

- Identify people who they could call during an emergency.
- Learn and practice key self and family identification information.
- Learn and practice key phone numbers and contact information.
- Create an ICE Contact Card that they can use in case of an emergency.

Time: 30 Minutes

<p>Discussion</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Storybook Reading</li> <li>• Knowing About Me</li> <li>• ICE Contacts</li> </ul>
<p>Activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheer</li> <li>• Story Reading (See Reading to Ready Booklist, pages 65–67)</li> <li>• Prep Step Dance</li> <li>• ICE Card Decorating</li> </ul>
<p>Handouts</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICE Card Template</li> <li>• Know Your Number Worksheet</li> </ul>
<p>Send Home</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICE Card Template</li> <li>• Direct parents/guardians to <a href="https://www.savethechildren.org/ICE">SavetheChildren.org/ICE</a></li> </ul>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AV and internet for video</li> <li>• Copies</li> <li>• Pencils/crayons for each child</li> </ul>

## Introduction

---

***Today we're going to be talking a little bit about emergencies and how we can make a plan to help stay safe.***

### **IF NOT PREVIOUSLY COVERED/REMINDER:**

***Do you know what an emergency is?***

An **emergency** is something that may cause harm or damage. You may not know it was going to happen and you may need help to respond to it. Some emergencies can happen because of accidents, such as a fire or a fall. Other emergencies may happen because of weather or the movement of the earth's surface, such as storms or earthquakes.

***If we want to stay safe in emergencies, we need to get ready by making a plan and knowing who we can call In Case of Emergency. We can call these people our ICE Contacts (ICE stands for In Case of Emergency).***



### Cheer

---

***First, let's do our cheer.***

***When I say "Get Ready!" you say "Get Safe!"***

***Let's practice.***

Practice a few times, changing the pace and tones of your voice to keep it lively for children.

***Great Job!***



### Do the Prep Step Dance

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***Do you remember the Prep Step Dance we learned last session? Do you remember what the Prep Steps were?***

Review:

1. Knowing ICE Contacts
2. Making a family plan
3. Packing a Go-Bag

***Let's do the dance again and see how we've improved.***

Play the [Prep Step Dance Video](http://www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep) (www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep). If needed, play the [Prep Step Dance Instructional Video](#) another time to help children learn the dance moves.



## Storybook Reading and Discussion

---

Select and read an emergency-themed story book from our [Reading to Ready Booklist](#) (pages 65–67) or another emergency-themed book of your choice.

Read aloud the book selection, teaching children what to do and how to act when emergencies happen.

Ask questions along the way to keep kids engaged. Ask them for help with words or identifying what's happening in the illustrations.

Afterwards ask questions about story, focusing on the characters reactions and actions:

- **What happened?**
- **How do you think the characters felt?**
- **What did the characters do?**
- **How did the characters keep themselves safe?**
- **Who helped the characters?**
- **What was your favorite part and why?**
- **Reinforce what the characters did and did not do with respect to safety, evacuation, sheltering and planning.**



## Knowing About Me

---

**For young kids, knowing basic identification information is critical in facilitating reunification after an emergency, especially if they get separated from a family member or teacher.**

Explain to children that knowing information about who they are, who their parents/guardians are and where they live is very important in an emergency. Knowing these things can help make sure that they can be safe and with their families.

Help kids practice saying and memorizing basic identification information, including:

- Full name (First and Last)
- Age
- Parents'/Guardians' names
- Home phone number (if they are able)
- Home address (if they are able)
- Allergies or special medical needs

Ask children about their knowledge of each category:

**“How many of you know your phone number by heart or from memory? How many of you know your address?”**

Also ask:

**Who might need to call in an emergency?**

- 9-1-1 if you or someone else is hurt or lost.
- Parents/guardians
- Grandparents
- Police, firefighters, emergency doctors

Clarify that we might call these people our ICE Contacts or our In Case of Emergency Contacts.

Teach children that it’s important to have an identification or ICE Card (or In Case of Emergency Card) with them that has this kind of information in their backpack or lunchbox so teachers, firefighters and police officers can help keep them safe.

Use the **ICE Card Template** as a model to help children start to make ICE Cards. Take children’s photos and have them fill out their name and age. Allow children to decorate their card or the back of the card as they wish. Have them draw picture of their family, a phone or who they might call in an emergency.



## Know Your Numbers

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Hand out the **Know Your Number Worksheet** (page 21) and have children practice dialing important phone numbers like their home phone number and 9-1-1. Help young children by writing down their home or parent/guardian phone number on the worksheet.

## Closing

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Before ending the session, make sure to re-iterate key learning points.

### **KEY POINTS:**

- It’s important to know information about me (like parents’ names, phone number and address) to keep use safe in an emergency.
- We need to know ICE Contacts—or people we could call in case of an emergency.
- During an emergency, if you are alone or hurt, call 9-1-1 or local emergency number.

**Do you remember our cheer?**

**Get Ready! Get Safe!**

Thank children for their attention and participation. Encourage children to talk about emergency contacts and making an ICE Contact Card.

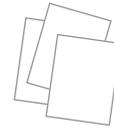
## Materials

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**LINKS:** Prep Step Dance Video: [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)  
ICE Card Online Creator (for parents):  
[SavetheChildren.org/ICE](https://www.savethechildren.org/ICE)

**HAND OUT:** ICE Card Template  
Know Your Number Worksheet

**SEND HOME:** ICE Card Template





# My ICE Card

(In Case of Emergency Contact Card)

Cut and paste a recent photo here.

DIRECTIONS: Please fill out the following information with your parent or guardian. Place this card in your book bag or wallet to keep with you at all times.

## MY INFORMATION

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

FOLD HERE

## MY PARENT/GUARDIAN'S INFORMATION

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## MY LOCAL CONTACT'S INFORMATION (in case a parent/guardian cannot be reached)

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to me (friend/uncle): \_\_\_\_\_

FOLD HERE

## MY OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT'S INFORMATION (in case local contacts cannot be reached)

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to me (friend/uncle): \_\_\_\_\_

## MY DOCTOR'S INFORMATION

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

FOLD HERE

## MEDICAL OR SPECIAL CARE INFORMATION

I have the following medical conditions and/or allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I take the following prescription medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I need the following medical treatment or care: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FOLD HERE



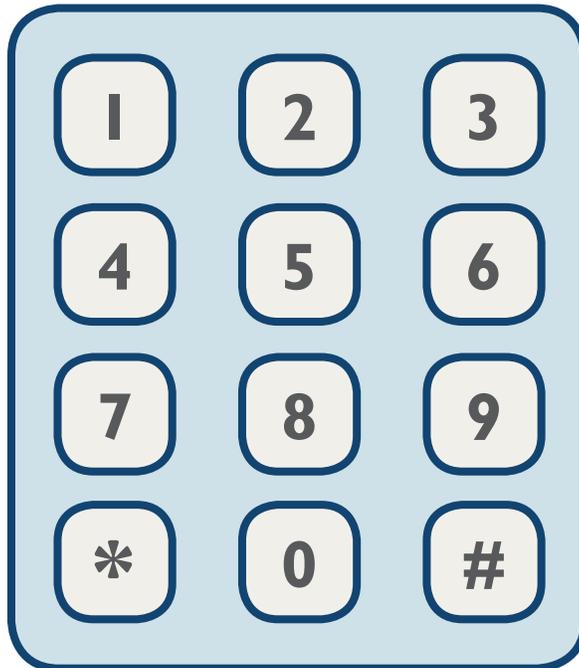
# KNOW YOUR NUMBER

Directions: Emergencies can happen when we least expect them so it's important to always be prepared. Write your grown-up's name and phone number on the dotted line. Practice on the keypad below to help you remember.

**My Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Grown-Up's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number:** (1)    -    -



**Challenge:** Now that you've memorized your grown-up's number, see if you can memorize two more phone numbers from your ICE Card—a local grown-up and an out-of-town grown-up. Write them on a separate sheet of paper. Practice on the keypad above to help you remember.



# PREP STEP 2: MAKING A PLAN

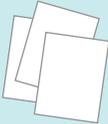
## SESSION OBJECTIVES



The Prep Step 2 session will help children:

- Understand key parts of a home emergency plan.
- Learn how to evacuate and shelter-in-place.
- Talk about making an emergency plan with their families.

Time: 30 Minutes

<p>Discussion</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Making a Plan Basics</li> </ul>
<p>Activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheers</li> <li>• Prep Step Dance</li> <li>• Leader Says Game</li> <li>• Pledge</li> </ul>
<p>Handouts</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pledge Card</li> </ul>
<p>Send Home</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Plan Template</li> </ul>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies</li> <li>• Pencils/crayons for each child</li> <li>• AV and Internet for video</li> </ul>

## Introduction

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*Today we're going to be talking about how making a plan can help you and your family stay safe during an emergency.*

### **IF NOT PREVIOUSLY COVERED/REMINDER:**

*Do you know what an emergency is?*

An **emergency** is something that may cause harm or damage. You may not know it was going to happen and you may need help to respond to it. Some emergencies can happen because of accidents, such as a fire or a fall. Other emergencies may happen because of weather or the movement of the earth's surface, such as storms or earthquakes.

*What is a plan? Have you ever had a plan? Maybe to visit your friend or make a craft or to get somewhere?*

Give an example of a time you had a plan.

*We make plans so that we know what to do when we need to do it and so that we can have success in doing it correctly. We need an emergency plan so that we know what to do to stay safe in emergencies.*



## Cheer

---

*Let's practice our cheer.*

*When I say "Get Ready!" you say "Get Safe!"*

*Let's practice.*

Practice a few times, changing the pace and tones of your voice to keep it lively for children.

**Great Job!**



## Do the Prep Step Dance

---

*Do you remember the Prep Step Dance? Do you remember what the Prep Steps were?*

Review:

1. Knowing ICE Contacts
2. Making a family plan
3. Packing a Go-Bag

**Let's do the dance again and see how we've improved.**

Play the [Prep Step Dance Video](http://www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep) (www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep). If needed, play the [Prep Step Dance Instructional Video](#) another time to help children learn the dance moves.

**Today we are going to be talking about Prep Step 2: Making an Emergency Plan. Are you ready?!!**



## Emergency Plan Basics Discussion

---

Explain that there are different actions we might take during different types of emergencies to stay safe. You wouldn't do the same thing if there was a fire as you would if there was a storm. We are going to talk about three different things we need to know to make an emergency plan.

As you discuss each of the three parts of an emergency plan, have children repeat the words and do the motions with you. Example: When I say three, we're going to say "ICE Contacts" together and do the motion of making a phone call together.

### 3. ICE Contacts (Hold hand to ear like a phone)

***We covered ICE Contacts in the first session, but knowing who you can call is a very important part of an emergency plan. If there was a storm we might have to call our parents to tell them where we are or that we are safe.***

***Who could be your other ICE Contacts?***

- Parent
- Local friend or relative
- Out-of-town friend or relative

**Remember that having our ICE Cards with us and memorizing important phone numbers can help us stay safe.**

### 2. Exit Routes (Motion walking in place)

***What does it mean to exit or evacuate?***

Exit means to get out.

We would evacuate if there was a hazard in the building, like a fire. We might also evacuate if there were some chemicals in the building or after an earthquake.

***What are some ways we could get out of a building?***

Through doors, backdoors or windows.

Have children imagine their homes and think about at least two different ways they could evacuate (front door, back door, window, basement etc.) Ask children to share their answers.

## 1. Safe Place (Place hands over head like a roof)

### ***When might we want to go to a safe place in our house? What kind of weather?***

We would go to our safe place if there was a bad storm outside and it wasn't safe to go out. If there was a winter storm or thunderstorm or tornado, we would want to take shelter in our safe place.

### ***What might be your safe place? What kind of room?***

Have children imagine their homes and think about where their safe place might be (e.g., a basement, shelter, closet, under the stairs, bathroom etc.) Have children share their answers.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** Instead of the Leader Says Game, you can choose to read another book from the [Reading to Ready Booklist](#) (pages 65–67) and following the discussion guide in session one or two. Focus on the plan that the characters had and the actions they took.



## Leader Says Game

---

Using the key words defined above (ICE Contacts, Exit, Safe Place”), play “Leader Says” having the kids act out the actions when you say each key word but only when you say “Leader Says.”

For example: Leader says, “Exit”—motion as if walking in place

Or Leader says: “Call ICE Contacts”---motion as if making a call.

Feel free to add additional, non-emergency themed words and actions in the mix to keep the game going.

At the end of the game remind children to share the 3, 2, 1's of an emergency plan with their families. Three ICE Contacts, Two Exit Routes, One Safe Room.

## Closing

---

Before ending the session, make sure to re-iterate key learning points.

### KEY POINTS:

- A plan will help us know what to do during an emergency.
- Different types of emergencies require different responses.
- It's important to practice the plan with our families.

## Pledge

---

***We are going to end the session by saying a pledge together. Do you know what a pledge is? It's a promise. And we are going to make a pledge to talk about emergencies with our families.***

Hold up or hand out **Pledge Cards**.

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to work with my family and my community to make a plan and be ready for any disaster.**

Thank children for their attention and participation.

***Do you remember our cheer?***

***Get Ready! Get Safe!***

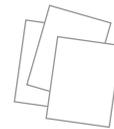
## Materials

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**LINKS:**            Prep Step Dance Video: [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)

**HAND OUT:**       Pledge Card

**SEND HOME:**     Family Plan Template







I, \_\_\_\_\_,

**PLEDGE TO WORK WITH  
MY FAMILY AND MY COMMUNITY  
TO MAKE A PLAN AND BE READY  
FOR ANY DISASTER.**

DATE

SIGNATURE

Get Ready. Get Safe.





# OUR FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN



**DIRECTIONS:** Emergencies can be scary, but being prepared can keep your family safe. Fill out the information below with your children to create your Family Emergency Plan.

## ICE (IN CASE OF EMERGENCY) CONTACTS

### MY PARENT/GUARDIAN'S INFORMATION

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### LOCAL CONTACT'S INFORMATION (in case a parent/guardian cannot be reached)

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to me (friend/uncle): \_\_\_\_\_

### OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT'S INFORMATION (in case local contacts cannot be reached)

First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to me (friend/uncle): \_\_\_\_\_

# OUR FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

## Meet-up Locations

Choose two locations to meet up in in case of an emergency if you're evacuating your home or if going home is not an option. One location should be nearby (such as a lamppost or a street corner) and the other farther away from the home (such as a relative's house or a community center).

Nearby Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Farther-Away Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Safe Room Location

In case of an emergency in which your family needs to shelter-in-place, choose a safe room—a room with no windows on the lowest level of your home.

Safe Room Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Create an Emergency Supply Kit

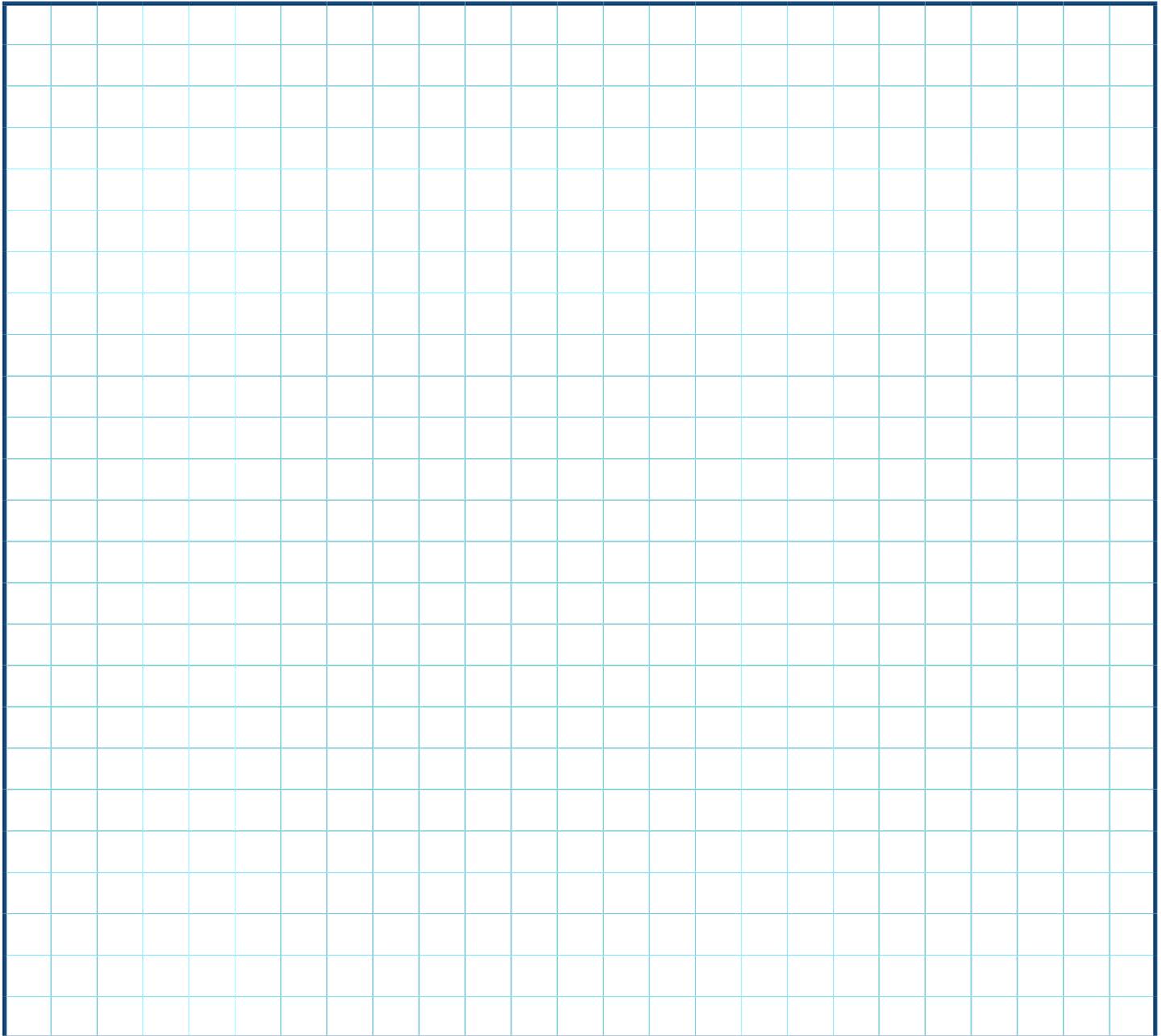
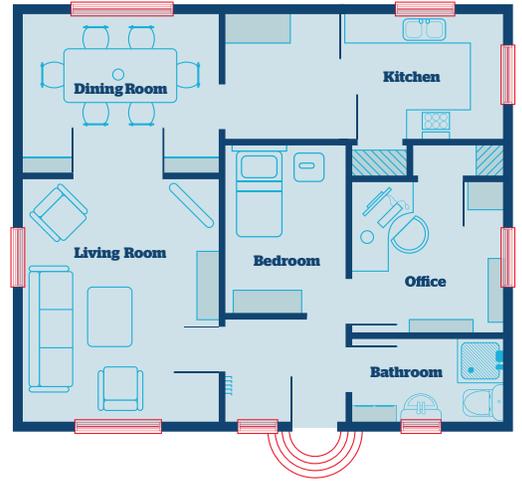
Include water, nonperishable food, flashlights with batteries, blankets, a radio, a first-aid kit, kid-friendly activities, comfort items, etc. Store the kit in an easily accessible area, update its contents regularly, and explain to children when and how the kit should be used.

Emergency Supply Kit Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# OUR FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Use the grid below to draw your home emergency map. Identify evacuation routes, safe rooms and location of disasters supplies kit.





# PREP STEP 3: PACKING A GO-BAG

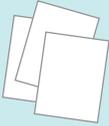
## SESSION OBJECTIVES



The Prep Step 3 session will help children:

- Understand the importance of having supplies ready in case of an emergency.
- Know key supplies to put in their Go-Bags.
- Talk about emergency supplies with their families.

Time: 30 Minutes

<p>Discussion</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Go-Bag Supplies</li> </ul>
<p>Activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheers</li> <li>• Prep Step Dance</li> <li>• Disaster Supplies Relay Race</li> </ul>
<p>Handouts</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Goes in a Go-Bag Worksheet</li> </ul>
<p>Send Home</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster Supplies Checklist</li> </ul>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies</li> <li>• AV and internet for video</li> <li>• Pencils/crayons for each child</li> <li>• Relay Race Supplies 2 filled bags or backpacks (hygiene kit, comfort item, flashlight, notebook, crayons, ICE Card) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Whammies! (not emergency supplies—e.g., bowling ball, princess crown, electrical hair dryer, heavy books etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Introduction

---

*Today we're going to be talking a little bit about what you might need to stay safe and comforted during an emergency.*

### **IF NOT PREVIOUSLY COVERED/REMINDER:**

*Do you know what an emergency is?*

An **emergency** is something that may cause harm or damage. You may not know it was going to happen and you may need help to respond to it. Some emergencies can happen because of accidents, such as a fire or a fall. Other emergencies may happen because of weather or the movement of the earth's surface, such as storms or earthquakes.



### Cheer

---

*First, let's practice our cheer.*

*When I say "Get Ready!" you say "Get Safe!"*

*Let's practice.*

Practice a few times, changing the pace and tones of your voice to keep it lively for children.

*Great Job!*



### Do the Prep Step Dance

---

*Do you remember the Prep Step Dance? Do you remember what the Prep Steps were?*

Review:

1. Knowing ICE Contacts
2. Making a family plan
3. Packing a Go-Bag

*Let's do the dance again and see how we've improved.*

Play the [Prep Step Dance Video](http://www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep) (www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep). If needed, play the [Prep Step Dance Instructional Video](#) another time to help children learn the dance moves.

*Today we are going to be talking about Prep Step 3: Packing a Go-Bag.  
Are you ready?!!*



## Go-Bag Supplies Discussion

---

**We may not know when an emergency is going to happen. That's why it's important that we have all the things we may need ready to go beforehand. We can each make our own Go-Bag filled with important supplies and kept in a safe place so that we can grab it whenever we may need it.**

What are some things you might need during an emergency?

- To keep warm? Extra clothes, jacket, blanket
- To keep safe? ICE Card (In Case of Emergency Card), whistle
- To keep healthy? Prepackaged snacks and water
- To keep busy? Games, books, activities
- To feel safe? Stuffed animal, blanket,
- To stay clean? Soap, washcloth, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste
- If the lights go out? Flashlight, batteries
- To know what's going on? Radio

**We need to have these things packed and ready to go in case an emergency happens.**

**Where might you keep your Go-Bag?**

Remember, if you need to evacuate quickly, you may not have time to get your Go-Bag if it's not nearby. Never go back into an unsafe place just to get your Go-Bag.



## Disaster Supplies Relay Race

---

***Now we are going to play a game to practice what we have learned.***

Set-up:

1. This is a relay game so there needs to be a start line and turnaround line (mark lines and/or cones or similar).
2. Divide participants (children and adults) into two teams. Each team should have a backpack or container to place retrieved items.
3. Each team lines up behind the start line; in front of each team, just behind the turnaround line, there should be one pile of disaster supplies (see Supplies box on next page) with a few whammies included.

**Directions:**

1. Explain to children that they are going to pack team Go-Bags. And when it's their turn, they should try to pick an item that they might need in their bag in case of an emergency.
2. When you say "Get Ready, Get Safe, Go!" the first child on each team will run down to the corresponding pile, pick up an item that and bring it back to the line where he or she

will put the item in a team backpack and tag the next player to run.

3. Each player will run once.
4. When all the teams are done, the program leader goes through each supply item and asks the whole group if they need it in their kit and why it is important to include it their kit.
5. Congratulate both teams for a job well done.



## Packing Your Go-Bag

---

Hand out the **What Goes in a Go-Bag Worksheet** (page 41) that helps children decide what should go into a Go-Bag. If the activity is too difficult, have children draw items that they want to put in their Go-Bag. Have them cut out the items and put them in a classroom Go-Bag that you make together. Afterwards, talk about the item that each child drew.

Ask children to talk about making an emergency supplies kit with their families and encourage them to put together their own Go-Bag.

## EMERGENCY SUPPLIES\*

*\*This list is not comprehensive*

- Flashlight
- Teddy bear
- Can of food, snacks
- Water bottle
- Blanket
- Notebook
- Pencils
- Soap
- Toothbrush
- Hand Towel
- First aid kit (or materials like bandages)
- ICE Card
- Radio
- Whistle

### WHAMMIES (examples)

- Princess crown
- Heavy Textbook
- Salad scooper
- Bowling ball
- Pom poms
- Hair dryer with electric cord

## Closing

---

Before ending the session, make sure to re-iterate key learning points.

### KEY POINTS:

- One way we can be safe during emergencies is by having the right supplies.
- We can make our own Go-Bags that are ready to use in an emergency.
- Keep kits in a safe place that is easy to get to.

Thank children for their attention and participation.

***Do you remember our cheer?***

***Get Ready! Get Safe!***

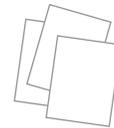
## Materials

---

**LINKS:** Prep Step Dance Video: [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)

**HAND OUT:** What Goes in a Go-Bag Worksheet

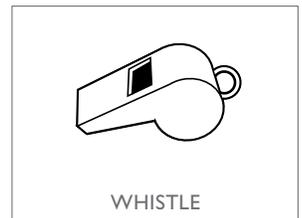
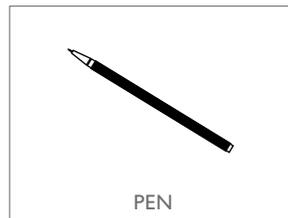
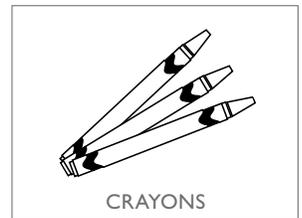
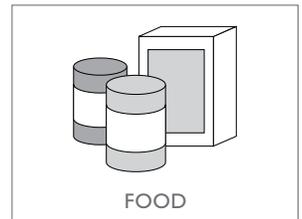
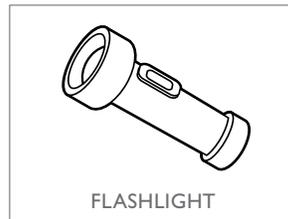
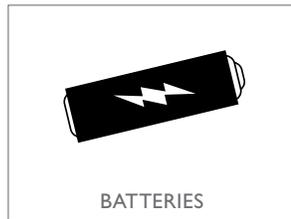
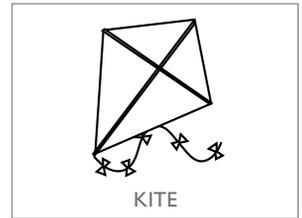
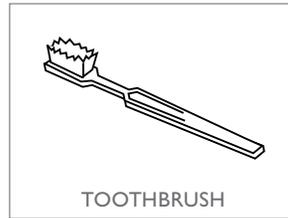
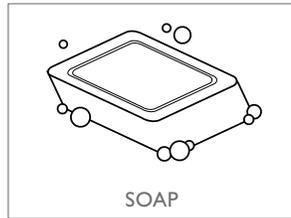
**SEND HOME:** Disaster Supplies Checklist





# WHAT GOES IN A GO-BAG?

Practice packing an emergency Go-Bag.  
Circle the supplies you may need in case of an emergency.  
Place an X on the items you would not need.





# DISASTER SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

Every family needs a Disaster Supplies Kit filled with items needed to help keep all family members safe and healthy during an emergency. Store enough of each item to last at least seven days. Be sure all family members know where the kit is located and when and how it should be used. Update your Disaster Supplies Kits regularly to replace expired food or medicine or outgrown clothing items. Get Children involved in putting together their own Go-Bag so they can learn the importance of being prepared.

## DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Radio (battery-powered or hand crank)
- Non-perishable food items
- Water (one gallon/person/day)
- One complete change of clothing for each person, including jackets/coats
- Blankets
- Cash and coins
- Map of the area marked with places you could go
- Toolset
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Roll of duct tape
- Plastic sheeting pre-cut to fit shelter-in-place room openings
- Pet supplies
- Small fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Special items such as denture needs, contact lenses
- Items for seniors or people with disabilities

## MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- Prescription and non-prescription medicine, including for children
- First Aid Kit
- Fever reducer
- Antibacterial ointment
- Rash ointment

## HYGIENE ITEMS

- Baby wipes
- Diapers
- Nursing pads
- Sanitary pads
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Bleach

# DISASTER SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

## INFORMATION

- Medical information, including copies of medical prescriptions
- Copies of passports and birth certificates
- Copies of personal identification, such as a drivers' license
- Recent photos of each child

## COMFORT ITEMS

- Comfort food and treats
- Activity items like books, puzzles and games
- Stuffed animal or blanket for children

## CHILD-FRIENDLY FOOD SUPPLIES

- Nursing supplies
- Formula
- Pre-packaged baby food
- Juice pouches
- Powdered milk

## CHILDREN'S GO-BAG

Having children create their own Go-Bag can help them feel part of the family emergency plan and teach them personal responsibility. Bags should be stored at home in an easily accessible area and updated as children grow and their interests changes.

**Put these items in a backpack or portable bag to use during an emergency:**

- A teddy bear or favorite stuffed toy (for safety and comfort)
- Crayons and pen (to keep ourselves busy)
- Soap and soap box (to clean ourselves)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste (to clean our teeth every day)
- Comb (to comb our hair)
- Hand towel (to clean ourselves or keep cool)
- An ICE Card or wristband (to identify who we are and parent contact information)
- A flashlight with batteries (to help us when there is no power)
- A notebook (to record important information and/or keep busy)
- A whistle (to use if you need help or get lost)
- Ask children what else they wish to remember that is important to them (i.e., favorite books, pictures, toys, extra clothes, etc.)

# PREP STEP REVIEW: WHAT WE LEARNED

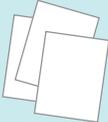
## SESSION OBJECTIVES



The Prep Step Review session will help children:

- Remember the Prep Steps: Knowing ICE Contacts; Making and Emergency Plan; and Packing a Go-Bag.
- Understand the importance of talking about and practicing an emergency plan with their families.
- Understand that during emergencies caring adults will be working to keep them safe.

Time: 30 Minutes

<p>Discussion</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• What We've Learned</li> <li>• Who to Trust</li> </ul>
<p>Activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheers</li> <li>• Prep Step Dance</li> <li>• First Responder Cards</li> <li>• Dance Party Game</li> </ul>
<p>Handouts</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prep Rally Certificate</li> </ul>
<p>Send Home</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prep Step Song Lyric Sheet</li> <li>• 10 Tips for Coping with Disasters</li> </ul>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies</li> <li>• Pencils/crayons for each child</li> <li>• Music and music player with speakers</li> <li>• Internet for video</li> </ul>

## Introduction

---

***Today we're going to be talking about what we've learned during our Prep Step Sessions and how making a plan can help you and your family stay safe during an emergency.***

### **IF NOT PREVIOUSLY COVERED/REMINDER:**

***Do you know what an emergency is?***

An **emergency** is something that may cause harm or damage. You may not know it was going to happen and you may need help to respond to it. Some emergencies can happen because of accidents, such as a fire or a fall. Other emergencies may happen because of weather or the movement of the earth's surface, such as storms or earthquakes.



### Cheer

---

***Let's start with our cheer.***

***When I say "Get Ready!" you say "Get Safe!"***

***Great Job!***



### Do the Prep Step Dance

---

***By now, hopefully you remember the Prep Step Dance. What are the Prep Steps?***

Review:

1. Knowing ICE Contacts
2. Making a family plan
3. Packing a Go-Bag

***Let's do the dance one last time.***

Play the **Prep Step Dance Video** ([www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](http://www.SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep)). Take photos and consider sharing on social media with #PrepStep (ensure you have permission from parents before posting). Send home **Prep Step Song Lyric Sheet** with children.



## What We've Learned Discussion

---

*Today we are going to review what we've learned during our Prep Step sessions.*

1. **What is something that you learned about getting ready for emergencies?**
2. **What was your favorite part of the sessions?**
3. **What are ICE Contacts? Why is important to know ICE Contacts?**

**Answer:** ICE Contacts are In Case of Emergency Contacts, meaning they are people we can call if we need help in an emergency. We need to know three ICE Contacts: a parent/guardian, a friend or relative nearby, and an out-of-town Contact. It's important to memorize ICE Contact phone numbers or write them on an ICE Contact card so that we have a way to reach the people we love during an emergency.

4. **What does it mean to evacuate? What are two exit routes out of your home?**

**Answer:** Evacuate means to get out or exit. We need know at least two different ways out of our home in case there is an emergency, like a fire, inside. Some exit routes out of a home may be front door, back door, window, basement, etc.

5. **We might go to a safe place in our home when the weather is bad outside. What space or room in our home might be a safe place?**

**Answer:** A safe space in a home is in a room or space that doesn't have outside doors or windows. It is on the lowest floor or underground and near the center of the home. Some examples of a safe room may be a basement, a shelter, a closet, a bathroom or a space under the stairs.

6. **What are some of the supplies that we need to put in our Go-Bags?**

**Answer:** Supplies that we can put in our Go-Bags include: washcloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, extra clothes, blanket, snacks, water, notebook, pen, crayons, comfort item (like a teddy bear or favorite toy), games, whistle, ICE Card.

7. **What is something you learned that you can share with others (friends and family)?**

8. **How can we share what we learned with others?**



## Who to Trust

---

During an emergency there will always be caring adults who will be working to keep children safe. Help children understand that there are adults they can trust in an emergency situation.

Use **First Responder Cards** (page 51) and print them out to share.

Discuss what each group's role is during an emergency.

- **Firefighters:**

**Role:** Help put out fires and control other types of emergencies. They may help get us to safety.

**Supplies:** **Fire trucks** take firefighters to fires. They have **hoses** and big **ladders** to help firefighters reach and put out fires safely. **Fire hydrants** help firefighters get water to put out fires. **Fire extinguishers** can help us put out small fires at schools or at home.

- **Police officers:**

**Role:** Protect us from harm. Block off unsafe areas and tell us what we need to do to stay safe.

**Supplies:** **Police cars** take police officers to emergencies. They have **sirens** to help police officers get places quickly. A police officer may block off an unsafe area with **tape**, to keep us from getting hurt.

- **Emergency Doctor (EMS):**

**Role:** Work to help heal any injuries and keep people healthy.

**Supplies:** **Ambulances** take emergency doctors to emergencies. Emergency Doctors bring **medicine** and **medical supplies kits** to help people who may be hurt or injured. They may take injured people to the **hospital** to get more help.

Ask:

**Who might we need there was a fire down the hall?**

**Answer:** Firefighter

**Who might we need if someone had a cut on their leg?**

**Answer:** Medical Worker

**Who might we need if a street needed to be blocked off because it was unsafe?**

**Answer:** Police Officer

Teach children that these adults work to help keep kids.

**ACTIVITY OPTION:** Play the **First Responder Memory Game** (pages 53–58) to help children get familiar with first responder roles, symbols and supplies.



## Dance Party Game

---

***We've learned the basics of an emergency plan. Now we are going to make a different type of plan—a dance plan!***

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Get three volunteers to join you [LEADER] at the front of the room.
2. Explain to the whole group that you will be playing a dance party game and you need help from the volunteers to come up with the moves.
3. Have Volunteer 1 demonstrate a simple dance move that she would like to use in the game (this could be anything like disco pointing, or a hop or skip). Tell children, that when you call out, “Red” during the game, they are to perform Volunteer 1’s dance move.
4. Have Volunteer 2, demonstrate a simple dance move that he would like to use in the game. Tell children, that when you call out, “Blue,” during the game, they are to perform Volunteer 2’s dance move.
5. Have Volunteer 3, demonstrate a simple dance move that she would like to use in the game. Tell children, that when you call out, “Yellow,” during the game, they are to perform Volunteer 3’s dance move.
6. Tell children that now that you have a dance plan, they are to pay attention as you may call colors quickly or out of order and they need to keep up.
7. Start playing music in the background with an upbeat tempo.
8. Guide the group through the different dance moves by calling out red for 15 seconds, then blue for 15 seconds and then yellow for 15 seconds.
9. After they have the hang of it, start going from number to number at your own pace. For example, blue for 5 seconds, to red for 20 seconds, to blue for 5 seconds, then yellow and so on.
10. Eventually, say a color for which you didn’t give instructions (e.g., purple), and do a completely different dance move than was assigned at the beginning of the game. See if the kids continue to follow what you say and do.
11. Again use colors, red, blue, yellow in any random pattern.
12. Add in a few more colors for which they do not have instructions. See how long it takes them to catch on.
13. Play the game for as long as you want.

14. At the conclusion, ask the kids: Were you ever confused or frustrated during the activity? If so, why? What did you do when you were confused? Why?

Explain that, during emergencies, things don't always go according to plan and when things don't go as expected it's important to look to and follow their adult leader (e.g., parent, teacher, coach). Talk about the dancing activity and how it was important to be calm, quiet and focused on the leader when they weren't sure what to do. In an emergency they need to try to be calm, quiet and focused so that they can hear instructions and stay safe.

## Closing

---

Before ending the session, make sure to re-iterate key learning points.

### KEY POINTS:

- Do the Prep Steps with your family
  - Knowing ICE Contacts and make ICE Cards
  - Make a home emergency plan
  - Gather emergency supplies and pack Go-Bags.
- Talk about your emergency plan and practice it with your family.
- During an emergency try to stay calm and quiet and follow the instructions of parents or leader.
- Caring adults will be working to keep us safe during an emergency.

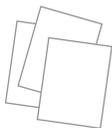
Thank children for their attention and participation. Hand out **Prep Rally Certificates** (page 58) to congratulate them on completing the sessions.

***Do you remember our cheer?***

***Get Ready! Get Safe!***

## Materials

---



**LINKS:** Prep Step Dance Video: [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)

**HAND OUT:** Prep Rally Certificate



**SEND HOME:** Prep Step Song Lyrics  
10 Tips for Helping Children Cope with Crises

# FIRST RESPONDER CARDS



**Firefighters**

## **FIREFIGHTERS**

Help put out fires and control other types of emergencies. They may help get us to safety.

## **POLICE OFFICERS**

Protect us from harm. Block off unsafe areas and tell us what we need to do to stay safe.

## **EMERGENCY DOCTOR (EMS)**

Work to help heal any injuries and keep people healthy.



**Police Officers**



**Emergency Doctors (EMS)**

**FIRST RESPONDER  
CARDS**



**Save the Children®**

**FIRST RESPONDER  
CARDS**



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# FIRST RESPONDER MEMORY GAME

Directions: Cut out the cards along the dotted lines. Place cards face down and mix them up. Have children turn two cards over at a time, trying to find the picture that matches each picture they turn over. Have children describe each picture the turn over (i.e., This is a firefighter who fights fires, or this is a medicine kit used by doctors). If children find a match, they keep the cards and the cards are no longer in play. If children don't find a match, turn the cards back over and leave them where they are. Play until all the matches have been found.



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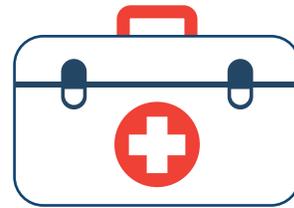
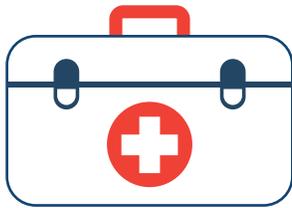
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# CONGRATULATIONS,

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on successfully completing the **Get Ready Get Safe** Prep Rally  
and preparing your family for disasters.

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**DATE**

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**SIGNATURE**



**Save the Children®**  
**Get Ready. Get Safe.**



# HOW TO HELP CHILDREN COPE WITH DISASTERS

Many parents, teachers, grandparents and caregivers are concerned about how dramatic images of disasters can affect the emotional well-being of their children and are looking for advice. To help provide guidance, Save the Children has prepared the following 10 tips. They can be used by adults to support children through any disaster. These tips are based on Save the Children's years of national and international experience in supporting children in disasters.

## 10 Tips from Save the Children

Save the Children recommends parents, teachers, grandparents and caregivers:

- 1. Limit television time.** While it can be important for adults to stay informed about the disaster, television images and reports may be confusing and frightening for children. Watching too many television reports of the disaster can overwhelm children and even adults. So, limit the number of television reports about the disaster you and your children watch.
- 2. Listen to your children carefully.** Try to find out what your child knows and understands about the disaster before responding to their questions. Children can experience stress when they do not understand dangerous experiences. Find out what your child knows about the disaster. Then, talk to your child to help him or her understand the situation and ease their concerns.
- 3. Give children reassurance.** Tell children that adults are doing everything they can to protect and help children who have been affected by the disaster. Also, let them know that if an emergency happens, your main concern would be their safety. Make sure they know they are being protected.
- 4. Be alert for significant changes in behavior.** Caregivers should be alert to any significant changes in children's sleeping patterns, eating habits, and concentration levels. Also watch for wide emotional swings or frequent physical complaints. If any of these actions do happen, they will likely lessen within a short time. If they continue, however, you should seek professional help and counseling for the child.
- 5. Understand children's unique needs.** Not every child will experience a disaster in the same way. As children develop, their intellectual, physical and emotional abilities change. Younger children will depend largely on their parents to interpret events; older children and adolescents will get information from various sources, such as friends and the media. Remember that children of any age can be affected by a disaster. Provide them all with love, understanding and support.
- 6. Give your children extra time and attention.** Children need close, personal attention to know they are safe. Talk, play and, most importantly, listen to them. Find time to engage in special activities with children of all ages.
- 7. Be a model for your children.** Your children will learn how to deal with these events by seeing how you respond. The amount you tell children about how you're feeling should depend on the age and maturity of the child. You may be able to disclose more to older or more mature children but remember to do so calmly.
- 8. Watch your own behavior.** Make a point of being sensitive to those impacted by the disaster. This is an opportunity to teach your children that we all need to help each other.
- 9. Help your children return to a normal routine.** Children usually benefit from routine activities such as set eating times, bed time, and playing with others. Parents should make sure their children's school is also returning to normal patterns and not spending a lot of time discussing the disaster.
- 10. Encourage your children to do volunteer work.** Helping others can give children a sense of control and security and promote helping behavior. During a disaster, children and adolescents can bring about positive change by supporting those in need.

Save the Children urges adults to seek out and follow the guidance of Emergency Management and Public Health Officials to help ensure the safety of their children.



# THE PREP STEP

Music and Lyrics by Save the Children - [SavetheChildren.org/PrepStep](https://www.savethechildren.org/PrepStep)

## Chorus



Do the Prep Step  
Do-oooh the Prep Step  
Do the Prep Step  
Get Ready!  
Get Safe!



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### Verse 1

In case of emergency  
I know who to call  
My ICE Contacts, near and far  
We can try them all

**CHORUS**

### Verse 2

In case of emergency  
I know what to do  
My family will have a plan  
And practice it, too

**CHORUS**

### Verse 3

In case of emergency  
Supplies should last a while  
I'll have my own Go-Bag  
With things that make me smile

**CHORUS**

### Verse 4

Ahhhhh!  
Bring it down low  
Now put it up high  
Do your own steps  
Now reach for the sky!

**CHORUS**

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## Interlude

Now stop!  
Stay calm!  
And do the Prep Step

**CHORUS x 2**



# Reading to Ready Booklist

Help children learn about and prepare for disasters through reading. Choosing books about disasters that may affect your area can help build children’s resilience and ability to cope with crisis. Select one or more of the disaster books below to read together. While reading ask questions about the characters, settings and their reactions. Afterwards, have a discussion about what the book taught the children about preparing for and responding to disasters.

BUILDING EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE – LEARNING TO OVERCOME FEARS			
<i>Alfie Is Not Afraid</i>	by Patricia Carlin	With the help of his trusty dog, a little boy survives his first camp out.	Grades Pre-K–1
<i>Babies in the Bayou</i>	by Jim Arnosky	Demonstrates how parents and caregivers will protect children from harm.	Grades K–1
<i>The Dark</i>	by Lemony Snicket, illustrated by Jon Klassen	Dark becomes a character and teaches a young boy how to stop being afraid.	Grades K–1
<i>First Snow</i>	by Peter McCarty	Pedro isn’t sure he likes the cold and snow, but his family and friends encourage him.	Grades Pre-K–1
<i>Go Away, Big Green Monster!</i>	by Ed Emberley	Helps young children learn how to cope with and control their fears.	Grades Pre-K–1
<i>I’ll Know What to Do, A Kid’s Guide to Natural Disasters</i>	by Bonnie S. Mark and Aviva Layton	Helps children understand the facts, their feelings and how to cope with natural disasters.	Grades 2–5
<i>I’m Not Scared Book</i>	by Todd Parr	Bright, bold illustrations and simple text show children conquering a wide variety of fears.	Grades Pre-K–1
<i>Scaredy Squirrel</i>	by Melanie Watt	Scaredy Squirrel does not want to leave his tree for fear of killer bees, germs, and other disasters, but takes the leap and learns he can glide.	Grades K–3
<i>Stormy Night</i>	by Salina Yoon	Bear finds several ways to ease his fear when a storm wakes him up at night.	Grades Pre-K–K
<i>The Big Bad Blackout</i>	by Megan McDonald	When a hurricane knocks out the power, Judy, Stink, and their family find a way to pass the time.	Grades 2–4
<i>Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival</i>	by Kirby Larson	This amazing, true story recounts how best friends Bob Cat and Bobbi, a cat and a dog, survive Hurricane Katrina by sticking together.	Grades K–3
<i>What To Do When You’re Scared and Worried</i>	by James J. Crist	Kids have worries just like grown-ups. This book helps explain where worries and anxiety come from and gives kids tips to handle their worries.	Grades 3–5
<i>Who Feels Scared?</i>	by Sue Graves	Jack, Ravi, and Kevin talk about scary things and how to deal with them during their sleepover in this story that includes a special section for adults on how to talk to children about dealing with fears. (From the Our Emotions and Behaviors series.)	Grades K–3

## UNDERSTANDING HOW TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

<i>Back-to-School Safety</i>	by Lisa M. Herrington	A simple book to help kids start learning and building their basic safety awareness in a variety of situations.	Grades K–2
<i>Be Careful and Stay Safe</i>	by Cheri J. Meiners	This book helps kids stay safe in everyday situations and prepare for emergencies too. Also included are discussion questions, activities, and games for practice. (From the Learning to Get Along series.)	Grades K–3
<i>Blizzard</i>	by Joyce Markovics	Learn how to stay safe from winter’s icy blast. (From the It’s A Disaster series)	Grades K–3
<i>Fireboy to the Rescue: a Fire Safety Book</i>	by Edward Miller	Superhero Fireboy explains what to do in case of a house fire.	Grades 2–4
<i>How Do Dinosaurs Stay Safe?</i>	by Jane Yolen	Dinosaurs demonstrate what and what not to do to avoid getting harmed.	Grades Pre-K–K
<i>No Dragons For Tea</i>	by Jean Pendziwol	When a tea date with a dragon is interrupted by fire, a safety-conscious girl shows what to do to extinguish the flame.	Grades Pre-K–2
<i>Ready, Set . . . Wait! What Animals Do Before a Hurricane</i>	by Patti R. Zelch, illustrated by Connie McLennan	A look at how people as well as animals prepare for a hurricane.	Grades K–3
<i>Terrorists, Tornadoes, and Tsunamis: How to Prepare for Life’s Danger Zones</i>	by John Christian Orndorff	A list of tools and advice for prepping for and surviving a variety of disasters.	Grades 3–5
<i>Watch Out! Around Town</i>	by Claire Llewellyn	Kids are given advice on how to stay safe out of the home and around town. (From the Watch Out! series)	Grades Pre-K–2
<i>What If You Need to Call 911?</i>	by Anara Guard, illustrated by Mike Laughead	Short stories help readers learn when and how to call 911.	Grades Pre-K–2

## LEARNING ABOUT MONITORING THE WEATHER AND SPECIFIC TYPES OF DISASTERS, INCLUDING HOW TO RESPOND

<i>Clifford and the Big Storm</i>	by Norman Bridwell	A story of evacuation and returning home.	Grades K–3
<i>Clifford the Firehouse Dog</i>	by Norman Bridwell	Focuses on being prepared and evacuating in a fire emergency.	Grades K–3
<i>Earthquakes!</i>	by Renee Gray-Wilburn	A graphic novel approach to earthquakes and safety.	Grades 2–3
<i>Extreme Weather: Surviving Tornadoes, Sandstorms, Hailstorms, Blizzards, Hurricanes, and More!</i>	by Thomas M. Kostigen	Includes tips on what to do before, during, and after extreme weather.	Grades 3–5

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<i>Flood</i>	by Alvaro F.Villa	A wordless picture book showing the preparations for—and recovery from—a major flood.	Grades K–3
<i>Franklin and the Thunderstorm</i>	by Paulette Bourgeois	Explains how knowing the facts about something can help ease fears.	Grades K–2
<i>Hurricane &amp; Tornado</i>	by Jack Challoner	Describes dangerous and destructive weather conditions around the world.	Grades 3–5
<i>I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005</i>	by Lauren Tarshis	A chapter book about a boy who overcomes his fears during Hurricane Katrina.	Grades 3–6
<i>Kenta and the Big Wave</i>	by Ruth Ohi	Kenta and his family must evacuate their home in a small Japanese village as a tsunami approaches. Inspired by true events.	Grades K–3
<i>Louie the Buoy: A Hurricane Story</i>	by Allain C. Andry, III	A survival story about a buoy during Hurricane Camille.	Grades 3–6
<i>National Geographic Kids Everything Weather: Facts, Photos, and Fun that Will Blow You Away</i>	by Kathy Furgang	Packed with weather-related information ranging from weather extremes such as heat and storms, to weather prediction and preparedness.	Grades 3–6
<i>Surviving a Fire</i>	by Heather Adamson	Learn what to do when faced with a disaster. (From the Be Prepared series)	Grades 2–4
<i>Tornadoes</i>	by Gail Gibbons	Teaches all about tornadoes: formation, classification and how to respond.	Grades 3–6
<i>Tornadoes: Be Aware and Prepare</i>	by Martha Rustad	Describes what each disaster is and what to do in case you are caught in one. (From A Plus Books: Weather Aware series)	Grades K–2

*This list was created by the Quicklists Consulting Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.*

*Compiled by ALSC Quicklists*

*Committee Co-chairs: Krista Britton & Mary R. Voors*







**Save the Children®**

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