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Emergency Planning for Child Care: Protecting the Youngest on Your Campus

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Emergency Planning for Child Care: Protecting the Youngest on Your Campus

Presented by:
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Executive Director





How does child care fit into
your emergency plans now?



Do you provide any specific training
to those who interact with
children?



Do parents know the emergency plans for the child care facility?

Agenda

- What is unique about children?
- What is unique about child care?
- Eight best practices

Children's Unique Needs in Emergencies

**Children are not “little adults.”
They have **unique needs** that must be addressed
to ensure their safety and well-being:**



- **Physical protection**
- **Psychosocial protection**
- **Cognitive protection**

Tips to Support Children in Disasters- A Resource for Parents & Programmers

- **Listen** to children carefully and give them opportunities to talk about what happened.
- **Limit** TV time – news & pictures can be frightening.
- **Be patient and understanding** –children might still be upset or frightened.
- **Use positive behavior and language** around children.
- **Take care of yourself** and do healthy things to relax. Try to get enough rest.
- Remember, additional help is available if needed.
 - From Ten Tips to Support Children in Disasters



How can you best protect this
unique population?

Incorporating Children's Needs into Planning

✓ **Training and Exercises**

- ✓ **Include the needs of children across emergency training and exercises**
- ✓ **Consider training and exercises around scenarios which involve the child care community.**
- ✓ **Provide staff with briefings on children's unique needs and how they can protect and support children in their role**
- ✓ **Build the relationship between emergency management and the childcare community**

What is unique about child care?

- Different regulations
- Unique population
- Impact on all aspects of planning



Can your current plans account
for this?

Preparedness is Essential

- **Protect the lives of the children in your care.**

- **Protect the staff and volunteers at your facility.**

- **Avoid additional confusion as parents seek to get their children.**

- **Minimize risks.**

- **Safeguard your business (campus and child care) and reopen more quickly after a disaster.**

Other?

Best Practices

- Child Care Aware & Save the Children
- National Report Card
- Specific to Child Care

Eight Best Practices

1. Make a written plan.
2. Maintain current health and safety information.
3. Develop and implement family communication and reunification plans.
4. Identify emergency team and procedures.
5. Assemble emergency equipment and supplies.
6. Practice your plan.
7. Include children and adults with all levels of abilities.
8. Protect program information and assets.

Best Practice One

Make a Written Plan

- Consider the size of your program.
- Gather essential information needed for first response agencies.
- Diagram or site plan of facility with shelter-in-place locations, exits, and outside evacuation sites.
- Include letters of agreement with partnering organizations.
- General documentation of how many children are served in your facility, address of your program, and contact information.

Best Practice Two

Maintain Current Health and Safety Information for Children and Staff

- Gather current emergency contact information for families and staff.
- Obtain Emergency Releases for children for permission to transport.
- Enhance your child-staff roster using electronic storage of information.
- Produce child identification badges.
- Obtain permission to provide emergency medical care to children.

Best Practice Three

Develop and Implement Family Communication and Reunification Plans

- A communication plan, back-up plan, and a back-up for the back-up plan.
- Emergency plan wallet cards for families with off-site evacuation location and emergency contact numbers.
- A plan for reunification of children with their caregivers.

Best Practice Four

Identify Emergency Team and Procedures for Evacuation, Sheltering and Lock Down.

Plan to:

- Evacuate
- Shelter-in-place
- Lock down the facility

Imagine and plan for different emergencies:

- Tornado
- Flash floods
- Explosions
- Hurricane
- Intruder

Best Practice Five

Assemble Emergency Equipment and Supplies

- Communicate with emergency management agencies and parents.
- Have a designated first aid kit.
- Monitor for severe weather and disaster reports.
- Have plans for shelter-in-place or lock down emergencies.

Best Practice Six

Practice Your Plan

- All staff members should be aware of your plans.
- Practicing your plans.
- Having a written schedule for training.
- Drills should include:
 - All children
 - Every employee
 - Every volunteer (6+hrs/wk)

Best Practice Seven

Include Children and Adults with All Levels of Abilities in Your Plans.

- Ensure emergency plans include staff and children of all abilities, such as provisions for:
 - ❑ Children in wheelchairs
 - ❑ Adults with sensory impairments
 - ❑ Children with medical devices
 - ❑ Food allergies
 - ❑ Safe transportation of medications that require refrigeration.

Best Practice Eight

Protect Program Information and Assets.

Best Practice Eight is to protect program data and finances so your program can reopen after an emergency.

By storing duplicate copies of essential records in an off-site location, you will help ensure the safety of:

- ☐ Enrollment data
- ☐ Employment records
- ☐ Inventory
- ☐ Insurance records
- ☐ Bank account information



For additional resources and
training opportunities, please visit the
U.S. Center for Child Development and Resiliency
at

www.SaveTheChildren.org/USCenter

Save the Children's U.S. Center for Child Development and Resiliency is a community for professionals and advocates of children's issues, including education, health, and emergency preparedness.

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