



National Child Care Information Center

A service of the Child Care Bureau

NCCIC

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS for CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

The following is a sample of organizations and resources that have information for parents, providers, and child care programs on preparing for disasters.

National Disaster Preparedness Organizations

■ **American Red Cross National Headquarters**

2131 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-728-6400

World Wide Web: <http://www.redcross.org/>

The American Red Cross developed one-page lists of Homeland Security Advisory System recommended actions for individuals, families, schools, businesses, and neighborhoods to take for each of the color-coded alert levels. These recommendations are available on the Web at <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/hsas.html>.

■ **Disaster Resources**

University of Illinois Extension

World Wide Web: <http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~disaster>

Disaster Resources provides access to information on disaster preparedness and recovery and includes links to disaster agencies, organizations, and information networks. The topics covered include:

- Prepare for Disaster;
- After a Disaster;
- Get Help After a Disaster;
- Help Disaster Victims; and
- Resources for Educators.

■ **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472
202-566-1600

World Wide Web: <http://www.fema.gov>

FEMA is an independent agency of the Federal government, reporting to the President. Since its founding in 1979, FEMA's mission has been to reduce loss of life and property, and to protect the nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards. FEMA provides a comprehensive, risk-based, emergency management program through mitigation, preparedness, response, and

recovery. FEMA has the following resources related to disaster preparedness for child care programs:

- FEMA's Web site provides a number of fact sheets on actions families can take to prepare for disasters in the Preparation and Prevention section of the Website:
 - *Disaster Plan for Families*;
 - *Disaster Supplies Kit*;
 - *Emergency Food & Water*;
 - *Emergency Preparedness Checklist*;
 - *Disaster Preparedness Coloring Book for Kids*;
 - *Helping Children Cope with Disaster*;
 - *Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities*; and
 - *Checklist for People with Mobility Problems*.

These fact sheets are available on the Web at

<http://www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm#plan>

- The FEMA for Kids Web site gives activity ideas for children to learn about disasters, provides resources for further study, and offers activity ideas for parents and teachers. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.fema.gov/kids>.
- *Young Americans Prepare: Becoming Disaster Ready* (1998) educates children about natural disasters and shows them how they can be better prepared. FEMA has developed lecture materials, classroom exercises, and other sources in support of disaster reduction. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.fema.gov/kids/98wd.htm>.
- *The Emergency Management Guide for Business & Industry* (1996) is a step-by-step approach to emergency planning, response, and recovery for companies of all sizes. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/bizindst.pdf>.

Publications

The following is a sample of resources listed in chronological order.

- *Be Prepared: How to Plan for Disasters with Your Child's School or Child Care Provider* (2003), by Child Care Aware, provides a listing of resources on disaster planning and response for parents, schools, or child care providers. Resources for creating family disaster plans are also included. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.childcareaware.org/en/tools/resources/disasters.html>.

■ *Ready to Respond Emergency Preparedness Plan for Early Care and Education Centers* (2003), by Bright Horizons Family Solutions, covers the following:

- Evacuation Procedures and Process;
- Sheltering/Sheltering in Place;
- Medical Emergencies;
- Natural Disasters including Hurricanes, Tornados, and Severe Storms;
- Utility Disruption;
- Fire/Smoke Emergencies;
- Hazardous Materials;
- Bomb Threat and Suspicious Articles;
- Potentially Violent Situations and Random Acts of Violence;
- Disgruntled Impaired Parents/Guardians or Parent's/Guardian's Authorized Representatives;
- Hostage Situations; and
- Missing Child.

This resource is available on the Web at

<http://www.brighthorizons.com/talktochildren/disclaimeremergencyplan.htm>.

■ *Planning for Disasters in Child Care* (January 2003), by the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services, Northeast region, describes the steps needed for writing disaster plans for child care programs. This resource is available on the Web at <http://nccic.org/pubs/emerdisa.pdf>.

■ *The Emergency Response Planning Guide for Child Care* (Fall 2002), by Child Care Services of Vermont and Healthy Child Care Vermont, provides basic preparedness and planning information that can be customized to fit programs of all sizes. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.state.vt.us/srs/childcare/erp.htm>.

■ *Child Care: Emergency Management Plan* (December 2001), prepared by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Office of Child Care Services, is designed to assist staff in responding to emergency situations, provide information to family members concerning emergency planning, and provide a basis for restoration of services. This plan contains emergency response information for: natural hazards, technological hazards, and personal safety. This resource is available on the Web at <http://nccic.org/pubs/emergenc.html>.

■ *Disaster Planning: Self Assessment Guide for Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes* (October 1999), by the California Department of Social Services, can serve as a planning tool for family child care homes and child care centers. The Guide provides basic disaster preparedness and emergency planning information that can be customized to fit the size and population of any facility. This resource is available on the Web at <http://cclid.ca.gov/Res%5Cpdf%5CDisasterGuideforHomesCenters.pdf>.

■ *Emergency & Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Issues for Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers* (December 1996), by the Public Counsel Law Center, gives child care providers and nonprofit child care centers basic information on disaster preparedness and recovery issues. This pamphlet outlines existing California State laws, which outline emergency and disaster related requirements on licensed child care facilities. It also explores the rights and responsibilities of child care providers regarding disaster preparedness and recovery efforts. This resource is available on the Web in at <http://www.publiccounsel.org/publications/edp.pdf> and in Spanish at <http://www.publiccounsel.org/publications/edpspan.pdf>.

■ *Taking Charge: A Disaster Preparedness Guide for Child Care and Development Centers* (1996), by California Department of Education (CDE) Press, provides training for child care providers on how to prevent, prepare, manage, and recover from emergency and crisis situations. There are checklists and other resources to help providers prepare for a disaster such as: companion video, *Taking Charge: Preparing for Disaster*, which is available in English and Spanish. For additional information, contact CDE Press at 800-995-4099 or on the Web at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/rc/publication-listings.asp>.

■ *Crisis Manual for Early Childhood Teachers* (1996), by Karen Miller, published by Gryphon House, includes strategies for addressing challenging issues such as the death of a family member, domestic violence, substance abuse, sexual abuse, homelessness, natural disasters, and fatal illness.. Chapters for each crisis include describing the problem, insights from child development, when to seek help, how to respond, and suggestions of organizations and individuals who can help. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.gryphonhouse.com/crisis.html>. For additional information, contact Gryphon House at 301-595-9500.

■ *Disaster Preparedness Planning Manual for Day Care Centers* (1994), by Nicole L. Child, published by Normandy Books, is a step-by-step guide that can aid staff in assessing hazards and help them to prepare a disaster response plan. It can also be used as a family guide for assessing hazards in the home and for preparing a family emergency response plan. The manual includes:

- Emergency drills;
- Guide in assessing hazards;
- Sample forms including sample Emergency Preparedness Plan;
- Ways to deal with children's fears and anxieties;
- Hypothetical scenarios for discussion;
- Food Storage Table and Emergency Supply Inventory; and
- Identifying alternative sites for the relocation and release of children in an emergency.

For additional information, contact Normandy Books at 408-266-4807 or on the Web at <http://www.normandybooks.com/books.htm>.

Related Publications

■ *The Crisis Communication Guide and Toolkit*, developed by the National Education Association (NEA), provides resources to members facing crises in their school communities. This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.nea.org/crisis>.

■ *Family Readiness Kit: Preparing to Handle Disasters* (2001), by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), is for parents to use at home to help prepare for most kinds of disasters. In this booklet, there are four different areas:

- “Understanding Disasters” has information about different types of disasters and simple steps for preparing for them;
- “Families As The First Resource for Preparation, Protection, and Recovery” covers ways parents can make their family the first line of protection in case of a disaster;
- “Meeting Your Neighborhood Disaster Ready” has strategies to help build neighborhood cooperation in times of impending disaster; and
- “Community and National Resources” lists phone numbers and addresses of national and local organizations with more ideas about what to do in case of a disaster.

This resource is available on the Web at <http://www.aap.org/family/frk/frkit.htm>.

■ *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools* (August 1998), published by the U.S. Department of Education, offers research-based practices designed to assist school communities in identifying early warning signs and developing prevention, intervention, and crisis response plans. The guide includes sections on:

- Characteristics of a School that is Safe and Responsive to All Children;
- Early Warning Signs;
- Getting Help for Troubled Children;
- Developing a Prevention and Response Plan;
- Responding to Crisis;
- Resources; and
- Methodology, Contributors, and Research Support.

This resource is available on the Web at <http://cecp.air.org/guide/Default.htm>.

The National Child Care Information Center does not endorse any organization, publication or resource.

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