



## CHILD CARE PREPARE

# ARE YOU READY?

## Emergency Preparedness Considerations for Infant and Toddler Child Care Providers

### EMERGENCY PLANS

Does your child care program...

- Have an emergency plan?
- Ensure new staff learn about the emergency plan?
- Review and update the emergency plan at least twice a year?
- Update your emergency plan to reflect children's changing developmental needs?
- Practice your evacuation procedure?
- Practice multiple scenarios at different times of day?
- Debrief after a drill to discuss ways to improve the process?
- Ensure someone is available to help with infants and toddlers during an emergency?
- Know how to help children remain calm during an emergency?
- Know how to help staff remain calm during an emergency?
- Assign staff with specific responsibilities during an emergency?

### PREPARING FOR THE WEATHER

Does your child care program...

- Have a plan to protect children from inclement weather during an evacuation?
- Know how your evacuation method can be impacted by inclement weather?
- Have a plan for children who have their shoes off at the time of the emergency?

### EVACUATION METHOD

Does your child care program...

- Know how infants will be carried in an evacuation?
- Have a plan to keep walking toddlers together as you travel to the evacuation site as well as keeping them safe while you are there?
- Use an evacuation crib, pack & play (with wheels), stroller, wagon, or other evacuation device?
- Have a plan to keep children safe in evacuation cribs (keep them from standing, falling over, etc)?
- Regularly check evacuation cribs to ensure they are in working condition and will function correctly in an emergency? Ensure the wheels work on the terrain around your building; it fits through doors; it easily rolls over the door threshold; and you're physically capable of moving the device quickly and safely.
- Know how to make sure children get up or down stairs in your evacuation route quickly and safely?
- Know how to get to an evacuation site outside of your neighborhood?

## EVACUATION LOCATION

Does your child care program...

- Have a planned evacuation site and backup site?
- Have an evacuation site outside of your neighborhood?
- Have a written agreement with your evacuation site?
- Check in with your evacuation site so they do not forget the agreement?
- Know the evacuation site meets your needs (size, safe space, etc)?
- Ensure all staff and families know the evacuation location?

## EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Does your child care program...

- Prepare your emergency supplies in a kit you can easily carry?
- Keep your emergency supply kit where you will be able to easily take it during an evacuation?
- Know you can meet the children's needs with the supplies in the kit?
- Have supplies to meet staff needs?
- Have emergency information for each child and staff member in the kit (emergency contacts, medical information, and a recent picture)?
- Know every item in your emergency supply kit is fully stocked and in working order?
- Have a phone and phone charger ready to take in an evacuation?

## MEETING INDIVIDUAL INFANT NEEDS

Does your child care program...

- Have formula or breastmilk available for each child in the event of an evacuation?
- Have comfort items (pacifier, blanket, etc.) for each child?
- Have a plan for an evacuation that occurs when an infant is sleeping, being fed, or diapered?

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF TODDLERS

Does your child care program...

- Have an evacuation crib, pack & play, stroller, wagon or similar evacuation device available for toddlers?
- Have a plan to keep toddlers busy during an evacuation?

## PARENT COMMUNICATION & POLICIES

Does your child care program...

- Ensure parents know your emergency plan?
- Know how you will notify parents in the event of an evacuation or relocation?
- Have a plan to communicate with parents if there is no electricity, phone service, or internet?
- Have protocols in place for child drop off and pick up during an emergency?



Learn more at [www.childcareprepare.org](http://www.childcareprepare.org)

Findings from Child Care Aware® of America Infant Toddler Evacuation Survey