

Ideas for Engaging Families in Disaster Planning

See next page for sample flyer

- Hand out copies of the program's disaster plan. This may be a copy of LIC 610 / 610A, or it may be a more detailed plan. Consider handing out copies of the Emergency Disaster Plan Addendum for Child Care Providers that you may have filled out as part of the Step-By-Step Guide. Walk families through the various sections of your disaster plan. Answer any questions that may come up. Consider explaining the job actions assigned to staff, particularly the Security, Attendance, and Reunification Coordinator, the Communications Coordinator and the Supervision and Care Coordinator.
- Hand out the Child Emergency Information Form that you have on file for each child to their family. Make sure they review the information carefully and update the form as needed. Include Special Health Care Plans as well. Collect all the forms.
- Hand out Wallet Cards that contain information on relocation sites and contact information. Make sure each individual gets one. Speak in-depth with families about the information on the cards. Explain how to get to the relocation sites and why you selected those sites.
- Discuss options for alternate modes of communications that your families would use. Find out which families use Facebook, Twitter, or other social media sites. Discuss setting up a group email chain or group text message that could be used to relay important emergency information.
- Ask about unique needs that families might have in disaster situations. For example, some parents may be emergency response workers such as doctors, law enforcement, utilities workers, or fire fighters who may not be able to leave work to pick up their children in a disaster. Some families might have special communication needs or long commutes. Children in families with unique needs may need extra emotional support in disaster situations.
- Activity: Bring out craft materials (paper, pens, crayons, colored pencils, magazines, newspapers, scissors, glue, glitter, etc.) and have parents create a comfort note for their children. Keep these notes in your long-term emergency supplies.
- Share information on preparing for disasters at home and encourage families to involve their children in their home emergency preparedness as much as possible.

Family resources to share:

- Sesame Street's Let's Get Ready Toolkit www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/ready
- FEMA's Family Emergency Plan Template https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Family_Emergency_Plan.pdf
- FEMA's Family Communication Plan Template www.fema.gov/media-library-data/0e3ef555f66e22ab832e284f826c2e9e/FEMA_plan_parent_508_071513.pdf
- The Center for Disease Control's website on preparing a home emergency kit (print out the infographic) <http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/kit/disasters/>

Share information on helping children cope with disasters and trauma.

Resources to share:

- www.savethechildren.org/cope (print out the infographic)
- Zero to Three's web page on Disaster Relief and Trauma http://main.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key_disaster&AddInterest=1142
- CCHP Health and Safety Note, Young Children and Disasters <http://cchp.ucsf.edu/YoungChildDisasterNote>
- Child Care Aware's web page on Crisis and Disaster Resources www.naccrra.net/programs-services/crisis-and-disaster-resources
- www.fredrogers.org/parents/special-challenges/tragic-events.php

Disaster Preparedness Meeting

Families, you won't want to miss this important meeting!

Help us keep your child safe!

- Receive a copy of our program's emergency disaster plan.
- Get a laminated wallet card with important information you will need to reunite with your child in the case of relocation.
- Review and update your child's emergency information.
- Create a customized comfort note for your child to help them cope in an emergency.
- Learn how to communicate with our program during a disaster.
- Take home resources on creating a disaster plan for your family and on how to help your child thrive after a disaster strikes.

Date:

Time:

Meeting Location:

RSVP:

Additional Information:

