

We don't want to think about it but the next emergency is just waiting to happen. Quality child care programs prepare not only their employees but the parents and children for emergencies. Now that the hurricane season is here take a few steps to be ready!



Is Child Care Ready?

NACCRRA has created a series of materials to help child care programs and family child care homes plan and prepare for emergencies. While we think of hurricanes we are also at risk of chemical spill, flood, and other weather related disasters. You can download these materials at www.naccrra.org. Go to publications and click on Is Child Care Ready? The emergency plan is located in the Sample forms beginning on page 97.

The First Step: An Emergency Plan

This plan goes beyond an evacuation plan and leads you to think about how you will contact employees and families and how they can contact you. It also includes planning to Shelter-in-Place in case of a chemical spill or sudden weather emergency. What supplies and equipment are needed to remain in place or to move to another location? Preparing a list of emergency contacts and protecting vital records and resources should also be planned.

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Can Help!

Your CCR&R can help with the information you need to develop an emergency plan.

Helping Children

Being prepared helps children deal with emergencies too. Children look to us all the time but during times of stress children depend on adults to maintain their calm and reinforce that the child and the child's family will be ok. Practice helps too. By taking the time to practice the evacuation routines (fire drills, etc.) we help children know what to do and what is expected of them. It also helps teachers and families know that in case of emergency everyone is prepared. Being prepared for disaster means that you and your staff can offer children the support they need if the worst happens.