

Emergency Disaster Preparedness Plans for Inclusive of Children with Disabilities

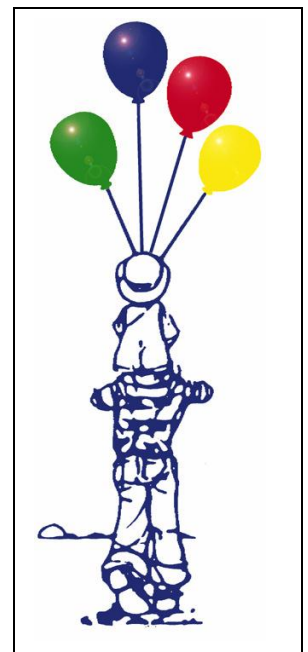
Every child care program must have an emergency preparedness plan for their program. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Emergency/Disaster Preparedness for children with Disabilities (EDPCD) plan must include children with disabilities. This requirement is also applicable to children at risk or children who need health and related services not usually required by most children. The EDPCD plan is considered appropriate and comprehensive if the needs of all children with chronic physical, developmental, emotional and behavioral conditions are included. If you already have an Emergency Preparedness plan, be sure to incorporate additional considerations for children with disabilities and special needs.

Tips from the National Center for Children with Special Needs:

- Store enough medical supplies and medication for three days to two weeks.
- Store regular and special foods for children who have special needs.
- Store different size batteries for your portable radio, flashlights, and assistive supplies.
- Learn about emergency plans at schools close to the childcare setting. Be familiar with their plans, shelter, emergency phone numbers, and contact information.
- Store all supplies in waterproof and pest proof containers. Place them in places that you can easily reach at the time of an emergency.
- Create and practice an escape plan for your child care setting, including clear exit paths for children using mobility devices or with vision impairment.

Actions you can take:

- Have a special health care plan for children with disabilities and special health conditions. You may use the “Special Health Care Plan” available online from California Childcare Health Program’s (CCHP) website at <http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/SpecialHealthCare.pdf>.
- Create or review your program’s existing emergency preparedness plan. If you need help, require a sample Emergency/Disaster plan, or have questions, contact the California Child Care Healthline at (800) 333-3212.
- Think about emergency, where there is no water, food, electricity, heat, air conditioning, refrigeration, transportation, telephone or internet access; very limited health care access. Think about emergencies specific to your area.
- Address the need of children with disabilities and special health care needs. Keep the Emergency Care Plan document for each child up-to-date.
- Inform all parents about your emergency and disaster preparation. Meet with individual parents and gather all information related to their child’s special needs.
- Have parents sign a consent form giving permission for you to speak to the child’s physician. A sample form from CCHP is available at <http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/InfoExchange.pdf>.
- Make sure all staff are trained and have First Aid/CPR certification.
- Update your emergency supplies kit. Add supplies and medications for each child with special needs in addition to the supplies for all children.



Prepared for Disaster Training
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