

Preparing Your Emergency Kit

According to the American Red Cross, every family should have an emergency kit. This is true of child development programs, as well. Consider the following checklist. Which items should you make sure staff members have in their classroom's emergency kits or your program's emergency kit?

From the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org): At a minimum, have the basic supplies listed below. Keep supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can take with you in case you must evacuate.

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3 day supply for evacuation, 2 week supply for home)
- Food—nonperishable, easy-to-prepare items (3 day supply for evacuation, 2 week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7day supply) and medical items
- Multipurpose tool
- Sealed packages of antiseptic for cleaning
- Small plastic or metal splints
- Emergency medication for children with special health care needs
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area

Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

- Medical supplies
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Games and activities for children
- Two-way radios
- Extra set of keys
- Manual can opener

Additional supplies to keep in your kit based on the types of disasters common to your area:

- Whistle
- N95 or surgical masks
- Matches
- Rain gear
- Towels
- Work gloves
- Tools/supplies for securing your facility
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Household liquid bleach
- Entertainment items
- Blankets or sleeping bags

If your program must operate at a temporary location, you will need to have basic supplies. Consider the following table. Make sure your program has these supplies available in the event of an emergency.

The supplies and equipment listed in this table can also be useful if children must shelter in place for a long period of time (for example, during a tornado warning).

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books Puzzles • Manipulatives • Crayons, markers • Assorted paper • Scissors (adult & child) • Glue, tape • Clay, play dough • Large plastic tablecloths for messy activities • Assorted dress up clothes • Dramatic play props/water play props • Games, blocks, balls • Tape recorder, tapes, radio • Mats, blankets • Portable cribs • Paper cups, tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, wipes • Dish pans/containers for sand and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pens, pencils, markers • Paper • Receipt book • Lock box for collecting money • Paper clips, stapler • Stapler, tape • Registration cards • Folding table and chairs • Portable or cellular phones

Source: U. S. Navy (2005). *Mobilization and Contingency Handbook*.