

What Would You Do? Activity

Think about the following scenarios. Describe how you would respond to each.

1. The dam near your town, Rossdale, broke without warning this morning. The northeast quadrant of Rossdale is being evacuated, and your child-development program is part of the mandatory evacuation. It is approximately 11 a.m., and lunch was just about ready to be served when the evacuation notice went out. Vehicles are being blocked from entering the northeast quadrant, so parents are unable to come pick up their children. You are being directed to transport the children to an emergency shelter in a church on the southwest side of town. Buses are coming in 15 minutes to start transporting children, but all the children will not fit on one bus.
 - a. How do you inform staff of the situation?
 - b. How do you notify families that their children are safe? How do you notify families of their children's location?
 - c. What do you do about lunch?
 - d. How do you ensure ratios are maintained? What is your plan for transporting the children?
 - e. What other concerns do you have?

2. At 4:36pm, a father enters your program's front doors. Your administrator is surprised to see him because she knows the family has been involved in a complicated custody dispute. He has been removed from the list of individuals who may pick up the child. She also knows the child's mother has already arrived to pick the child up and is currently in the classroom. Even though this is the busiest time of day in the front lobby, your administrator goes out of her way to greet the father and begins to speak with him about the situation. She notices he appears sweaty and nervous. Suddenly he pulls a gun out of his jacket and demands to see his child. He begins yelling threatening statements and waving the weapon.
- a. How can the risk of injuries and death be minimized in this dangerous situation?
 - b. How should the front desk team communicate the situation to the police? To the classroom staff?
 - c. What procedures should be followed to ensure the safety of children, families, and staff?
 - d. What plans should be put in place to prevent such events in the future?
 - e. What other concerns do you have?

