

Partnering with Service Providers/Caregivers



Keeping children and young people safe before, during and after an emergency requires the partnership of many: schools, after-school programs, and any provider of services to kids. Help this partnership work well by sharing your preferred emergency protocols with all people who care for your children; maybe present a brief “in-service” if you will.

Kids can be trained and supported so that they feel confident and well-informed about the right thing to do. As a parent, care provider or other trusted adult, talk to

the others about basic information to share with the child, such as: knowing the proper adults to contact, who to ask for help, and having a back-up place to go if their primary place is unavailable due to emergency. Remember: avoid giving conflicting information, remove fear and disaster images and be sure the information is age and culturally appropriate.

Quick Tips for Parents & Caregivers

- Children need comforting and frequent reassurance that they are safe – make sure they get it.
- Be honest and open about the disaster or crisis, but keep information age-appropriate. Too much information at a young age will overload them and they won't remember.
- Encourage children to express their feelings through talking, drawing or playing. Let them know you are always there for them.
- Try to maintain your daily routines as much as possible. Routines give a feeling of security.
- Monitor television viewing. Media can sometimes choose to go with the over-dramatic side of the story frequently including disturbing pictures which can heighten anxiety in children.



Preparedness Websites for Kids of all Ages



As adults we know that the number one way to calm fears is through education and discussion of the subject at hand. Below are some websites for kids of all ages to help educate them regarding preparedness. We hope you take the time to share them with your kids or pass it along to someone you know that would benefit.

Ready Kids – This site is full of fun and games with lessons, preparedness resources and links, including a special link for Parents & Teachers. <http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>

FEMA for Kids – This site teaches you how to be prepared for disasters and prevent disaster damage. Learn also what causes disasters, play games, read stories and become a Disaster Action Kid. [Resources for Parents & Teachers too!](http://www.fema.gov/kids/index.htm)
<http://www.fema.gov/kids/index.htm>

Masters of Disaster – Developed by the American Red Cross, this series is an educational tool that will teach youth the importance of preparedness while reducing the fear of the unexpected. <http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/educatorsmodule/ed-cd-main-menu-1.html>

Cal E-M-A This site has so many user-friendly educational links you just can't pass it up!
http://cms.calema.ca.gov/prep_kids.aspx

Remember, kids are our future, but they can't figure it all out on their own. They need YOUR help! How will YOU direct them?



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