



National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

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IS CHILD CARE READY?

First-Ever Nationwide Child Care Disaster Planning Guide

Until now, there has been no national plan to prepare child care programs for disasters. *Is Child Care Ready?: A Disaster Planning Guide for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies* is designed to help programs nationwide develop disaster plans. While nearly 12 million children are in some kind of child care every week, most of the adults who work in child care programs have no training to respond to any emergency except fire. *Is Child Care Ready?* provides the tools for a national disaster planning initiative that will safeguard our most vulnerable citizens – children and their families.

Why is Disaster Planning Important for Child Care?

Disaster planning for child care programs is especially critical because children – many of whom are not mobile and cannot communicate even basic information to a rescuer – are particularly vulnerable in the face of danger. In addition, due to its small business nature, child care is often more impacted by disaster than other services. Child care programs must be prepared for emergencies – not only to ensure children’s safety and mental well-being, but also to facilitate recovery by providing support to parents, employees, and employers.

What Does the Disaster Planning Guide Include?

The guide is a practical toolkit for Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to help child care programs – both child care centers and family child care homes – prepare for disasters, deal with them when they happen, and recover more quickly afterward. Designed to ensure that child care programs provide a safe haven for children in a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other emergency, the guide includes plans for evacuating and setting up temporary child care near shelters. It also includes templates for a variety of emergency planning documents.

Who Was Involved in Developing the Guide?

NACCRRA facilitated a national panel of early childhood experts who assisted child care programs after Hurricane Katrina, the Oklahoma City bombing, California earthquakes, 9/11 in New York City, and other national disasters. Representatives from the Child Care Bureau, Department of Health & Human Services, Save the Children, and the Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute were also involved.

NACCRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation’s leading voice for child care. We work with more than 800 state and local Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local community have access to high-quality, affordable child care.