

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



CREATE AN EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT

What should be in your kit...

- First-aid supplies & contact information/authorization for emergency medical care for every child.
- Water, nonperishable food including formula & baby food for infants, disposable cups, bowls, plates, & utensils.
- Nose and mouth protection masks, plastic sheeting, duct tape, utility knife, diapering & hand washing supplies.
- Flashlights with extra batteries, whistle, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, trash bags & re-sealable bags.
- Check out www.ready.gov/kit for additional information.

UTILITY OUTAGES

- Post shut-off information and utility contacts in a location that are accessible to you and other staff.
- Use a landline telephone that does not use electricity & have a cell phone charger for your vehicle.
- Have surge protectors and check batteries in flashlights.
- Check out www.kansasenergy.org/electricity.htm for additional information.

FIRES

- Conduct drills monthly (evacuation time must be less than four minutes) and smoke detectors must be tested monthly (Kansas requirement).
- Invite a local first responder to talk with children.
- Send home a fire escape plan for families to complete.
- Check out www.kdheks.gov and firemarshal.ks.gov/facility-information/ for additional information.

ILLNESS OUTBREAKS

- Know which illnesses require children to be excluded from child care (www.kdheks.gov).
- Create a plan for how parents/guardians will be notified and communicate the plan with them.
- Contact your local health department for more information.

SEVERE WEATHER

- Sign up for weather alerts (online/mobile apps) and prepare a safe room (www.weather.gov).
- Practice tornado drills monthly during April-September (Kansas requirement).
- Read weather related books with children and send home weather tip sheets or coloring pages that support the book's message.

FOOD SAFETY

- Keep meat, poultry, fish, and eggs refrigerated at or below 40 °F and frozen food at or below 0 °F.
- Adhere to food recalls, check expiration dates and dispose of expired products.
- Know children's food allergies and be aware of choking hazards.
- Check out agriculture.ks.gov/faqs/food-safety-faq for additional information.

POISONING

- Store all products out of sight and reach of children in locked cabinets that children cannot open.
- Store (in your cell phone) and post the number for Poison Control (800) 222-1222.
- Conduct a facility walk-through and remove all possible poisons that are accessible to children.

ACTIVE SHOOTER/INTRUDER

- Practice lockdown procedures and evacuation routes.
- Create a trusting environment where families or staff can report potential conflicts that could escalate or abnormal behavior.
- Send a note home with parents outlining your safety plan.