



Prepare your Child with Special Needs for School Emergencies

Emergencies can happen at any time. School lock downs, evacuations, power outages, earthquakes, fires, wind storms and other emergencies can all impact your child. Emergency preparedness is critical for children who have difficulty communicating, need behavior support, require medications, and/or rely on wheelchairs, feeding tubes, oxygen, ventilators or other medical equipment.

Work with your school on an emergency preparedness plan for your child. Communicate with your child about emergencies and involve them in the planning.

TEAM UP WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

- What's the **school emergency plan** for special need students?
- **Who is involved** in your child's emergency plan—school nurse, special education and substitute teachers and aides?
- Include emergency preparedness in your child's **IEP or 504**.
- Do teachers and staff practice **emergency drills** with special need students?
- Are classrooms with special need students prepared for an **extended lockdown**?
- How will students with **physical limitations** be evacuated from a multistory building?
- Where will your child's **medication/medical supplies** be stored and how will they be accessed in an emergency?
- How will the school **communicate** with parents/guardians during an emergency?
- How will students and parents be **reunited** after an emergency?

START SMALL—BEGIN WITH MANAGEABLE TASKS

- Personalize a **bracelet/necklace** for easy identification of medical conditions, allergies and contact information.
- Talk to your child about emergency plans for home and school. Involve your child in the planning, creating and management of their emergency kits.
- Modify your emergency preparedness list to fit your **child's unique needs**.
- **Create emergency kits** for home and school, including medications and medical supplies.
- **Set reminders on your phone** to maintain and update plans, and check expiration dates on medication, supplies and food.
- Use the **additional resources** below for more emergency preparedness information.
- **Partner** with your child's school now.
- **Network** with parents who have a special needs child at your school.

EMERGENCY KITS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

- **Customize emergency kits** for home and school in a labeled water resistant portable bag.
- **Make copies** of important documents and take pictures—ID card, updated **Emergency Medical Information Form***, medications and medical supplies list, contact list, etc. Place in water-proof bag.
- Have extra medication for at least **7 days**. Know how to store them.
- **Medical supplies** – if needed, oxygen supply, extra batteries, tubes, connector for feeding pumps, ventilators, catheters, gloves, masks, etc.
- **Water and food** – non-perishable, ready-to eat.
- Comfort toys and non-electronic games.
- **Other supplies** – extra clothes, shoes, blankets, flashlight, personal hygiene supplies,diapers, wipes, and first aid kit.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [ready.gov/disability](https://www.ready.gov/disability) • [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) • [healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) • [ready.lacounty.gov](https://www.ready.lacounty.gov)
- publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp • [emergency.lacounty.org/get-prepared](https://www.emergency.lacounty.org/get-prepared)

