

Family Emergency Planning

I. Natural Disasters – tornado & fire

A. Social Story explaining what to do during each emergency

- For a great flip book on fire safety/planning that you can print (its free) go to

http://www.nfpa.org/gallery/Fire%20Safety%20Book/flip_book_r7.html

B. Visual schedules – based on your child’s needs

- Post a sign in a basement corner that says “Safe Corner in case of Tornado”
- Stop, Droll & Roll visual schedule
- Visual schedule for home fire drills

C. Contact your police & fire departments

- Have your child visit them so the child can become comfortable with seeing the equipment and gear
- Provide both departments with info on your child and a map of your house to show possible locations of your child (in case your child is hiding and won’t respond to his/her name)
- For more information, go to

<http://www.co.kendall.il.us/kencom/pap.htm>

D. Practice

- Have the whole family practice fire drills and tornado drills (practice makes perfect!)
- Have different routes to designated safe location for a fire and a tornado
- Teach Stop/Drop/Roll
- Teach how to call 911 (if appropriate for your child)

E. Survivor Kit for safe place during a tornado

- Extra clothes
- Food & water
- Radio
- Toys, headphones, fidget toys

II. What happens when the primary caregiver/parent isn't at home when the bus comes to drop off the child

A. How long will the bus wait?

B. Will the bus call the caregiver/parent?

- Make sure the bus and school has your home & cell phone numbers (and anyone else who can get to your home quickly)

C. Where will the bus take the child if they can't reach you?

- back to school
- to a neighbor's house
- to another school
- develop a plan according to the bus company's and school district's rules

Example: Develop a phone tree of neighbors & family to care for the child until you can get home. If the bus will take your child to a neighbor's home, make sure they have phone numbers to reach the neighbor and a map to the neighbor's home.

II. What happens when the primary caregiver/parent can't care for the child? You want to make sure that whoever is taking care of your child will have the information he/she needs to care for your child.

A. Document your child's routine

- A great resource is www.driveforrebecca.org

Go to "Information & Tools To Help Your Family" for free downloads like *Your Child's Handbook*

B. Make extra copies of visuals or keep all the visuals in the same place

C. Organize IEP documents

- A 3-ring binder is a great place to use to organize all these things