Preparing Home Emergency Kit

According to the American Red Cross, every family should have an emergency kit. This is true of child development programs and family child-care providers, as well. Consider the following checklist. Which items should you have in your home emergency kit?

From the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org):

At a minimum, have the basic supplies listed below. Keep supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (three-day supply for evacuation; two-week supply for home)
- Food—nonperishable, easy-to-prepare items (three-day supply for evacuation; two-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Medications (seven-day supply) and medical items
- Multipurpose tool
- Sealed packages of antiseptic for cleaning
- Small plastic or metal splints
- Emergency medication for children with special health care needs
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed or lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map of the area

Consider the needs of all family members and add supplies to your kit. Suggested items to help meet additional needs are:

- Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Games and activities for children
 ✓ Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
 ✓ Two-way radios
 ✓ Extra set of car keys and house keys
 ✓ Manual can opener

Additional supplies to keep at home or in your kit based on the types of disasters common to your area:

 ✓ Whistle
 ✓ N95 respirator masks or surgical masks
 ✓ Matches
 ✓ Rain gear
 ✓ Towels
 ✓ Work gloves
 ✓ Tools and supplies for securing your home
 ✓ Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
 ✓ Plastic sheeting
 ✓ Duct tape
 ✓ Scissors
 ✓ Household liquid bleach
 ✓ Entertainment items
 ✓ Blankets or sleeping bags