Planning for Emergencies Away From Your Program

Use this reflection activity to think about how you would respond to problems on trips away from the building. Print the activity. Answer the questions. Talk about your responses with your co-workers or trainer.

Your child development center is located within walking distance of a neighborhood. Many of the children live in this neighborhood and their families walk them to and from the program. Jerusha, a preschool child, came to school very upset this morning and has not cheered up. As part of your activity plan, you are going on a walk around the building this morning. You and the children walk around the perimeter of the playground to look at the nests birds have built in the trees. The children are so excited; you and your co-teacher take turns lifting children to see into the nest. You take a headcount before beginning to walk again, but your count is one child short. Your co-teacher counts, too, and confirms a child is missing. You quickly consult your roster. Jerusha is no longer with the group. You suspect Jerusha has started walking towards her house (or where she thinks her house is).

1. How do you respond to Jerusha’s disappearance?

2. What is your plan for notifying administration and/or authorities that a child is missing?

3. How do you maintain ratio and safely escort the rest of the children back to the classroom?

4. What is your plan for notifying parents?
5. What can you do in the future to prevent such incidents?

6. What other concerns do you have?

Your class of preschoolers is on a field trip to a local nature preserve. Suddenly, Sheridan screams out and begins to cry. When you ask what’s wrong, he says a bee stung him. His face begins to swell.

1. If you know Sheridan has a Health Care Plan, what do you do?

2. If Sheridan does not have a Health Care Plan, what do you do?