



The First Ten Plays

CHILDREN IN DISASTERS*

- **Develop a mindset from the beginning that children are not small adults, do not need to be victims, and are at the same time resilient and vulnerable.**
- **Establish a family plan which includes having photos and identification of children, including fingerprints, recent photos, and the family dentist contact information.**
- **Learn to identify the signs of stress and depression in children. Visit the guides from the American Academy of Adolescent Psychiatry at:**
<http://www.aacap.org/page.wv?section=Facts+for+Families&name=Helping+Children+After+A+Disaster>
- **Gather planning ideas and suggestions for children in disasters from the American Red Cross at:**
http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_602_00.html
- **Get disaster services publications for children in disasters from the American Red Cross at:**
<http://www.redcross.org/pubs/dspubs/childmatls.html>
- **Evaluate the Youth Services program at the American Red Cross. This allows your child a chance to participate in the readiness and response process. It is a serious opportunity for American children:**
http://www.redcross.org/services/youth/0,1082,0_326_00.html
- **Get a copy of FEMA's terrific guide for families developed with the American Red Cross "Helping Children Cope with Disaster":**
<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/children.pdf>
- **Get a copy of the Child Advocate's free document from the Penn State Children's Hospital, "Helping Children Cope After a Disaster." You have to organize it and then bind it, but this should be in your Go Kit:**
http://childadvocate.net/help_children_cope.htm
- **Review the solid guidance and advice at FEMA for children in disaster:**
http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/cope_child.shtm
- **Get your younger children to participate in the Department of Homeland Security's site "Ready Kids." It gives them the opportunity to find information and develop skills to protect themselves and others in disaster:**
<http://www.ready.gov/kids/>

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** These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.*