



Keeping Washington County's Children Safe



During and after disasters, children and their families have unique and specific needs that may not be adequately addressed in emergency planning and response. Quickly returning to a routine can improve a child's recovery and simultaneously allow the family unit to address other issues of recovery. Every day, 69 million children spend the day in childcare facilities or schools. Despite this, these child-serving institutions are often left out of the preparedness and planning equation.

Washington County is determined to change this through the Children's Community Resilience Coalition.

We know we have work to do:

- Only 41% of Washington County residents report having an emergency plan that their whole family knows about
- 37% of Washington County households are not familiar with their child's childcare/school evacuation and emergency plans.
- 58% of Washington County households do not know where their children would be evacuated.
- 39% of Washington County household believe help will arrive in under an hour in the event of a disaster.
- 53% of Washington County households believe they will be reunited with their children within several hours; it took an astounding seven months to reunify the last child with her family after Hurricane Katrina.
- Of every \$10 spent in federal preparedness grants, less than one penny goes to activities targeting children's safety.

Over a three year period, the Resilient Children/Resilient Communities initiative will work with two pilot communities- Washington County, Arkansas and Putnam County, New York. Through this partnership, Washington County will build a sustainable, child-focused emergency plan, bringing together stakeholders to ensure that our children are safe.

Looking to be part of the solution? Everyone has a role to play!

- Teach the children in your care about the basics of emergency preparedness
- Hand out family disaster checklists at your next family engagement night
- Lead a review and discussion at your office of your emergency plan
- Join the coalition and represent your sector or organization

Questions? Contact our community champion Debbie Malone: dmalone@nwachildcare.org