



Disaster Preparedness For Students With Disabilities

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Individuals with Disabilities and Disaster

- The needs of individuals with disabilities are not being met in recent times of disaster (National Organization on Disability, 2006).
- Disaster planning for people with disabilities needs to be extensive due to an increased vulnerability (Family Center on Technology and Disability, 2008).
- Disaster preparedness is a proactive attempt to lessen the effects on those involved (Fox, Rooney and Rowland 2007).

What About Students with Disabilities?

- A disaster that occurs during the school day places children at an increased vulnerability (Kailes ,2008).
- Children can experience life threatening situations when separated from caregivers (Peek & Stough, in press).
- In a 2007 report, The U.S. Department of Education asked school districts to include students with disabilities in their disaster planning and highlighted their unique planning needs.

Disaster Preparedness in the Classroom

- How can teachers plan for the individual needs of their students with disabilities during an evacuation or sheltering in place situation?
- What type of product can assist teachers in meeting the individual preparedness needs of students?
- Our literature and product review revealed a lack of resources for special education teachers and classroom disaster preparation kits.

Classroom Action in a Real Emergency

- The C.A.R.E kit was created as a prototype for special education teachers.
- It is intended that teachers will use the C.A.R.E kit as a guide in planning for their students disaster support needs.
- The C.A.R.E kit consists of a classroom kit, a medication kit, a refrigerated kit, preparation checklists and student information forms.
- The contents are meant for 24 hours of care.
- The C-MIST framework (Kailes & Enders, 2007) was used to ensure that communication, medical, independence, supervision, and transportation needs were addressed.
- The C.A.R.E kit was developed by special education teachers.

Current Developments

- C.A.R.E kits are being created for special education classrooms in Navasota ISD.

- Present ideas at the CEC annual conference

Future Directions

- Seek funding sources for further development of the C.A.R.E kit
- Train special education teachers on effective disaster preparedness planning and on use of the C.A.R.E kit
- Distribution of the kit at the local, state and national level

