

Let's Get Ready!

Whether you live in Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, or Manhattan, it's always best to be smart and safe. Are you ready for an emergency? Does your family have a plan? Do you know what your school's plan is? Read the poem below to see how some kids are getting ready all over the five boroughs. When you've made your own family plan, then you'll be ready, no matter what may come!

When you're finished reading the poem, look at the map and put a star over the location of your home and your school.

1 Get Ready: Make a Plan

It's time for us to **make a plan**
 In case we're not together
 A plan for **where we'll meet loved ones**
 In any kind of weather

Phone numbers are the thing we'll need
 We'll have to **gather two**
 One for someone near your **home**
 One for someone **far away from you**

We'll **practice our plan** to be quite sure
 We know just **what to do**
 We'll talk about the steps we'll take
 And **write them all down** too

It's time for us to **make a plan**
 No matter where we are
 For where we'll **meet outside the home**
 One place that's **near, one far**

By **getting ready** with a plan
 We know that we will be
 Feeling **safer** and **prepared**
Ready in an emergency

2 Get Set: Prepare at Home

For **getting set to stay at home**
 For one or several days
 We'll need a **Stay-at-Home Kit**
 It's **smart** in many ways

A **flashlight** to bring light to night
 A **whistle's** helpful sound
Canned food and **bottled water**
 Can all be simply found

With kit in hand and ready
In one place and not in three
 Our family can be **safe at home**
Ready in an emergency

3 Get Ready to Go: Pack a Bag

But sometimes families **have to go**
 And **leave home** for a while
 When things take place so **suddenly**
 One must go the extra mile

A **Go Bag**, all packed with care
 Will help to **ease the way**
 And bring the things we **need and love**
 To pass the time of day

Some **food and drink** for all of us
 A **map** and **flashlight** to help us see
 Pack a **favorite book** and a **radio**
(Don't forget the batteries!)

We're **ready now** for anything
 No matter what will come
 If we're **away, at school, or home**
Our plan is nearly done

In school we'll follow **teacher's words**
 At home our **family plan**
 We're all prepared for what will be
Ready in an emergency

Tear-Out Family Pages

(for parents and guardians) Follow the steps ahead to help you and your family stay safe in an emergency.

- 1 Get Ready: Make a Plan**
- Every school has a plan in case of an emergency. For more information about School Safety Plans, ask for the Parent Guide from your child's school.
- Sit down with your family to create a plan for how to handle an emergency. If families stay in touch with each other, everyone can manage better in an emergency.
- Make a list of phone numbers for each person in your family network and the places they spend their time (at work, school, etc.). Include your son(s) or daughter(s); husband or wife; your child (or children's) school(s); etc.
 - To connect with your family, plan to meet at a specific place. Write down the name and location of your meeting place.
 - If your family can't find each other, plan to call someone you know who lives far away. Write down his or her name and phone number. Give your "faraway" person a copy of your Emergency Plan. Be sure he or she agrees to be your communication hub.
 - Fill out the Emergency Plan card to the right. Make one copy of the card and your Family Plan for each person your plan includes.

- 3 Get Ready to Go: Pack a Go Bag**
- In an emergency you may need to leave your home very quickly. Every person in your home should have a Go Bag (even pets!). A Go Bag should be sturdy and easy to carry, like a backpack or suitcase on wheels. Check the supplies at least twice a year to be sure it's ready at all times.
- Your Go Bag should include:
- Copies of your important papers (photo IDs, insurance cards, birth certificates, or titles for car or home) in a waterproof container
 - Extra set of car and house keys
 - Copies of credit and ATM cards and cash in small denominations
 - Bottled water and nonperishable food such as energy or granola bars
 - Toothpaste, toothbrushes, wet cleaning wipes, child care items, and so on
 - Flashlight
 - Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
 - Written list of medications taken by each person in your household
 - First-aid kit
 - Phone numbers and meeting place information for your household
 - Small map of the New York City area
- Once it's filled, test your Go Bag to be sure you can carry it easily.

- 2 Get Set: Be Ready to Stay at Home**
- In an emergency you may need to stay at home. In this case, you need enough supplies for at least three days. Keep these items in a separate container or special cupboard.
- Your Stay-at-Home Kit should include:
- One gallon of drinking water per person per day
 - Nonperishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener
 - First-aid kit, flashlight, and whistle
 - Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
 - Iodine tablets or one quart of unscented bleach (for disinfecting water ONLY if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper (for adding bleach to water)
 - A phone that does not need electricity to work. Most landlines need electricity. A cell phone should work in an emergency as long as it's charged.

Household Emergency Plan

Your Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Phone #: _____

Family Meeting Place: _____

Photos, first column, top to bottom: © James Baigrie/Digital Vision/Getty Images; © LWA/Photodisc/Getty Images; © JupiterImage/Alamy. Photos, second column: © iStockphoto; first aid kit, © Lew Robertson/Corbis.