

Dear Educator:

New York City has worked hard to prepare for emergencies. In recent years government agencies, corporations, healthcare organizations, small businesses, and many other groups have all begun to plan for the unexpected. Now it's time for all of us in our local communities to also prepare to be ready in any emergency, whether it's a house fire, hurricane, power outage, or terrorist attack. Age-appropriate student/family guides are being distributed to elementary, middle, and high schools in all five boroughs in New York City. In your school you can play an important role in helping your students, their families, and everyone in your school community know what to do in an emergency. Please distribute these materials within your school and encourage students to bring them home to share with their families. The sample "readiness" activities below and on the following page are designed to complement your daily lesson plans. Let's Get Ready, New York! It's up to all of us.



Emergency Management
Department of Education

Suggested Language Arts Connections for Grades K-5

Building Vocabulary: Get Ready Word Wall

Select four or five words from the poem on the map pages in the accompanying **Let's Get Ready, New York!** storybook. Write each one with black marker on an 8½" x 11" sheet of cardstock, then display the words on a classroom bulletin board or wall. Short daily activities can help students learn the Word Wall words, and ultimately improve their reading and writing skills. Some suggested Word Wall activities: 1) Dictate a sentence using words from the Wall, then repeat it word by word as students write it down. Remind students to begin the sentence with a capital letter, and end it with the appropriate end mark. 2) Ask students to write down a word that rhymes with a Word Wall word you say. 3) Think of a word on the Wall and give students five clues to guess the word.

Poetry: Let's Get Ready to Write a Poem

Read the poem on the map pages in the accompanying **Let's Get Ready, New York!** storybook to the class out loud. Show them how the rhyme scheme at the end of each line follows a pattern. Have students chant the poem aloud and clap to the rhythm they hear. Ask students to work in pairs and add their own verse to the poem (to be inserted at any point). When students are finished, ask them to take turns reading their "Get Ready" verse.

Teacher: Encourage students to think critically about planning: how we plan for events we know will happen, and how we plan for events that are unforeseen. Use this reproducible to launch your discussion about unexpected events. By understanding planning, students will begin to understand what it means to be prepared for unexpected events.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Let's Get Planning!

We all make plans for things we know will happen. For example, we make plans to go to a friend's house or to a special party. We can also plan for things we don't know will happen. For example, if we know there could be a fire in the neighborhood, but we don't know when, we can plan for a fire just in case.

In the left column below, list the future events you plan for because you know they will happen. In the right column, list the future events you plan for even if you don't know they will happen.

Events we plan for because we know they will happen	Events we plan for even if we don't know they will happen
1. Example: Birthday party	1. Example: Fire
2. Example: Going to a friend's house	2. Example: Snowstorm
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.