



## Who puts children first when disaster strikes?

# PlayCare Response for Your Community

### WHERE IS PLAYCARE NEEDED?

In Support of First Responders

In Support of Emergency Public Health and Medical Services

In Disaster Recovery Centers and Re-entry Checkpoints

In Shelters and Aid Stations

With Industry & Business in Support of Critical Infrastructure Personnel

*“Play is a fun, enjoyable activity that elevates our spirits and brightens our outlook on life. ... Play relieves feelings of stress and boredom, connects us to people in a positive way, stimulates creative thinking and exploration, regulates our emotions, and boosts our ego (Landreth, 2002). In addition, play allows us to practice skills and roles needed for survival.”*

Association for Play Therapy

**PROTECT/** Protecting children during disasters demands understanding their unique needs. It also requires the development—before the unexpected happens—of a plan for children that includes targeted supplies and qualified caregivers. Project K.I.D.’s PlayCare Response model was developed in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and engaged hundreds of volunteers in providing respite care to thousands of impacted Gulf Coast children.

**EQUIP/** Building on our proven model, Project K.I.D. is now helping communities around the U.S. develop the PlayCare Response capability to address children’s needs in the critical first 72 hours and beyond. PlayCare Response Teams will engage civilians in supporting emergency response by providing emergency and respite care for children of first responders and disaster victims.

**AFFILIATE/** Participation in the Project K.I.D. Network helps:

- Strengthen your community by engaging local civilians in emergency preparedness and response activities.
- Ensure that a voice for children’s needs is present during preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Promote rapid deployment of PlayCare to meet the needs of children in times of emergency.
- Support local emergency responders by providing dependent care support.
- Develop a corps of trained and credentialed volunteers qualified to hold children in times of emergency.
- Access knowledge, training, and other resources developed by Project K.I.D.
- Participate in a growing network of Project K.I.D. partners and affiliates.

**TRAIN AND EXERCISE/** Project K.I.D.’s community-focused PlayCare Training equips civilians and emergency personnel to respond with confidence to children’s needs in disasters. We also encourage teams to participate in local emergency preparedness and response trainings, table-tops, and full-scale exercises with a focus on promoting civilian engagement in disaster preparedness and response for children.

### ***Promoting Resilience for Children and Youth in Disasters***



Project K.I.D., Inc.  
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[www.project-kid.org](http://www.project-kid.org)  
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# Becoming a PlayCare Responder

### WHY VOLUNTEER?

You will support your local first responders

You will know how to shelter-in-place when emergencies happen.

You will provide safe care for children amidst devastation and in shelters, aid stations, & recovery centers.

You will promote community recovery by helping schools, child care, youth programs and industry get back to business.

You will touch the life of a child in need.

*"It was very comforting to know that if we are ever put into that type of situation that our children can be cared for while we are working."*

Health Department POD Staff  
Noblesville, IN

*"Seeing how quickly children could begin to play and smile and how that brought comfort to their parents made my time volunteering with PlayCare very rewarding."*

PlayCare Volunteer  
Hurricane Katrina

Project K.I.D.'s PlayCare Response model was developed in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and engaged hundreds of volunteers in providing respite care to thousands of impacted Gulf Coast children. Today, we are recruiting and training teachers, child care providers, youth workers and other volunteers around the U.S. to be ready to respond to the needs of children in their communities in the earliest hours of disasters.

**PROTECT/ Protecting children during disasters** demands understanding their unique needs. If you work with children on a regular basis, your knowledge and experience can be an asset in times of crisis.

**TRAIN/ Project K.I.D.'s PlayCare Training** equips civilian volunteers to respond with confidence during emergencies to protect children and promote resilience. You will learn how disasters impact children, how PlayCare operates, and how to interact with first responders. In many instances you can earn CEU/CRU credits for completing the PlayCare training!

**PARTICIPATE/ As a credentialed member of your local PlayCare Response Team** you will have opportunities to participate in additional training as well as local emergency preparedness and response planning and exercises with a focus on promoting attention to children's needs...and when the call comes to deploy, you will be a valuable and essential part of your community's response and recovery.

**REGISTER/ By registering in the Project K.I.D. Network** you:

- Become part of a growing corps of trained volunteers qualified to serve children in times of emergency.
- Have opportunities to serve regionally or nationally in disaster response.
- Access knowledge, training, and other resources developed by Project K.I.D.

**Contact Project K.I.D. today  
to learn when the next training will be offered in your area!**

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## Who puts children first when disaster strikes?

# The PlayCare Kit

**PROJECT K.I.D.** developed the PlayCare Kit in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to provide respite care for children in a multi-age group setting.

Field tested and proven to be valuable in many emergency settings, the PlayCare Kit provides supplies and equipment to support child-friendly emergency care for 25 children through the critical first 72 hours of a disaster.

With re-supply of food, water, and other consumables, volunteers can continue to provide respite child throughout disaster response and early recovery.

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*Outdoor PlayCare Site  
Waveland, MS  
September 2009*

*The site was co-located with the FEMA-MEMA Disaster Recovery Center and eventually moved indoors with the DRC to serve children through early March 2006*

### FEATURES

- A cost-effective, turn-key approach to ensure that supplies are on hand to meet children's needs in all types of disasters.
- 200' of customized, all-surface fencing to visibly separate children into secure areas.
- Site operations manual and administrative forms included.
- Basic hygiene supplies, sleep mats and blankets.
- 72-hour emergency food and water rations for 25 children and 5 adults.
- A wide variety of items are included to encourage play across multiple domains, including gross motor play, manipulatives, puzzles, games and social play, expressive/role play (including drama, music), arts, crafts, reading, writing, water/sand play.

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