



# Pediatric Readiness

## What families should know



## Children require special care in emergencies.



Pediatric readiness is the roadmap to ensuring that every emergency medical service (EMS) agency and emergency department (ED) is prepared to provide the care children need. Pediatric readiness is important because it's associated with improved outcomes and reduces health care disparities. But not all EMS agencies or EDs are fully pediatric ready. Here are steps to help your local ED/EMS agency respond to the needs of your child.



**If your child is having an emergency, go to the nearest ED or call 911.**

### Plan Ahead

Create a plan for what to do if your child needs emergency care:

- Familiarize yourself with nearby EDs and know where to go
- If you have a child with special needs, talk to your local fire department or EMS agency:
  - Invite them to meet your child
  - Share your child's needs
- Fill out an emergency information form at <https://bit.ly/3Oug78h>
- Review your plan and the emergency information form with your primary care provider



### Bring Key Supplies With You (have a "to go" bag):

- Your child's medication and special equipment (and power cord)
- Paperwork about your child's health (such as an emergency information form)
- Name and phone number of your child's primary care provider/clinic
- Phone charger for your phone
- Your child's comfort item

## Pediatric readiness is a team effort



You can help advocate for pediatric readiness in your community. For example, you can:

- Participate in a hospital's patient and family advisory council
- Contact your state's EMSC program about how to support their efforts
- Join EMSC's Family Advisory Network
- Share this flyer with others

**Learn more at [emscimprovement.center](https://emscimprovement.center)**

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