

WHO GOES TO MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTERS?

Children with special needs and their caregivers are welcome at medical needs shelters. Some examples of children with special needs include:

- Children who use wheelchairs;
- Children who are dependent on electricity to operate medical equipment;
- Children who are tube fed;
- Children who have ostomies;



- Children who need to be catheterized or have indwelling catheters;
- Children who experience frequent incontinence (bowel/bladder);
- Children who require oxygen nebulizers or sleep apnea therapy;
- Children who are on intravenous therapy;
- Children who need simple dressing changes; or
- Children who require peritoneal dialysis with caregiver assistance and who have no complications.

This list does not include all special needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS....

Please visit the Alabama Department of Public Health's Web site at www.adph.org for more information on the following topics:

- Injury Prevention
- Disease Control
- Natural Disasters
- Hazardous Materials
- Family Readiness Plans
- Pandemic Influenza Planning

This information may be downloaded or you can have the materials mailed to you by contacting:

Center for Emergency Preparedness
The RSA Tower, Suite 1310
Montgomery, AL 36104
(334) 206-3394 • 1-800-264-4073
www.adph.org/cep • cep@adph.state.al.us

ADPH
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Alabama Department of Public Health

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

ARE YOU AND YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS *ready?*



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Alabama Department of Public Health

www.adph.org/cep

ARE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WELCOME AT MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTERS?

Yes! The Alabama Department of Public Health welcomes children with special needs.

WHO ARE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

Children with physical and/or emotional/behavioral conditions requiring limited medical care and who have their own caregiver and necessary supplies. All children with special needs will be allowed to stay in the shelter with their family or will be referred to another place where they can be better cared for.

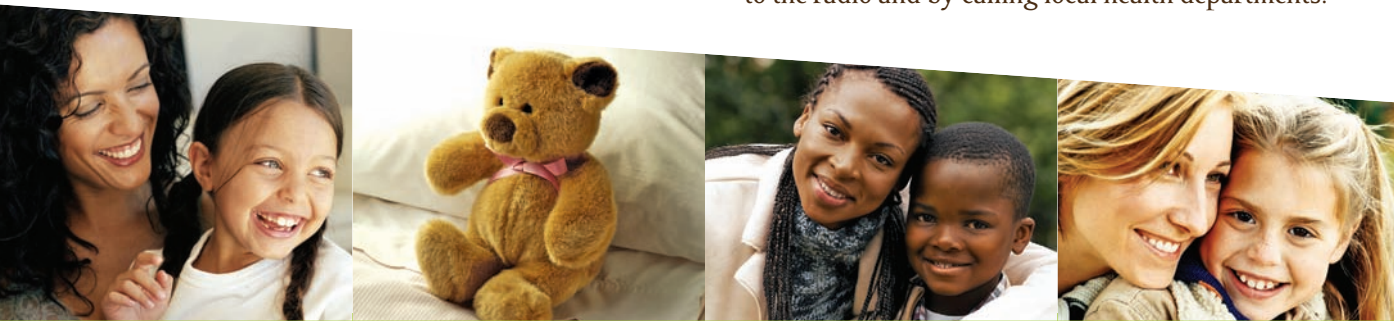
HAVE A PLAN!

It is important to have a plan if your child requires special care in the event of an emergency.

A limited number of shelters will be opened during an emergency. You will be able to find out where these shelters are by watching your local TV station, listening to the radio and by calling local health departments.

SOME IMPORTANT OPTIONS TO REMEMBER....

- Shelter-in-place or shelter with family and friends as long as emergency supplies are available for everyone;
- Create a way for you and your child to leave home if you need to in an emergency that requires your child to leave home; and
- Have other family members, friends, or neighbors that can help you leave safely.



WHEN YOU HAVE TO LEAVE WITH YOUR CHILD AND GO TO A MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTER PLEASE BRING....

- Someone to stay with your child at all times who knows how to take care of him or her;
- Identification such as a birth certificate, Social Security Number, and health insurance information, including Medicaid card, ALL Kids card and/or private insurance card;
- An adequate supply of prescription medicine;
- An adequate supply of diapers;
- Any special supplies such as tube feeding supplies or other special foods;
- Change of clothing, bed clothes, and shoes or slippers;
- Important telephone numbers for family, friends, and neighbors;
- Any medical supplies including oxygen your child routinely needs;
- For children who use telecommunication relay services, look into different options to use as back-up including dialing 711 (nationwide), Cap Tel (captioned telephone), internet-based relay (through computer, text pager, PDA), and video relay services (through broadband);
- If your child requires the use of a companion animal, please bring appropriate supplies for the companion animal;
- Personal hygiene items; and
- Toys or games that your child enjoys.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CHILD'S EMERGENCY HEALTH INFORMATION....

- Blood type;
- List of prescriptions;
- Immunization Record; and
- Contact information for health providers, emergency contacts, and pharmacies.

EQUIPMENT CARE

- Know how to connect or start a back-up power supply for essential medical equipment;
- Bring battery packs if needed;
- Consider getting your child a medical alert system allowing you to call for help if your child is immobilized;
- Teach others how to operate necessary medical equipment; and
- Whenever possible store back-up equipment, such as a manual wheelchair, at neighbor's home, school, or workplace.