



"GO BAG" SCAVENGER HUNT

Objectives:

To provide children and families with the opportunity to think about their own disaster preparedness and to practice selecting and assembling emergency supplies in a "go-bag".



Participants: 10-12 children ages 6-12, in teams of 2-3

Facilitators: 2 **Duration:** 15 minutes per group

Capacity: Approximately 50 children per hour

Materials Needed:

- 4 empty backpacks
- 4 battery-operated radios
- 4 t-shirts/shirts (various sizes)
- 1 set women's daily clothing
- 1 set baby clothing
- 1 set men's daily clothing
- 1 pair of shoes
- 2 blankets
- 4 small games, deck of cards or small child's toy
- Some sealed plastic bags of long-lasting, nutritious food (e.g. cans of beans, sealed crackers, dried fruit, jerky, energy bars)
- 4 sealed plastic bags with paper, marking pens, and card with headings: "Name," "Address," "Telephone," and "Out of Area Contacts."
- Several other items that are attractive to children, but do not belong in a "go-bag" (e.g. fresh fruit or vegetables, a large stuffed animal, a large toy or game, slippers, an egg carton, battery-operated toys)
- 4 flashlights with batteries
- 4 first aid kits
- 2 pairs of trousers (various sizes)
- 4 trash bags
- 2 plastic sheets
- 2 pairs working gloves
- 8 bottles of water (1 liter size)
- 4 plastic bags with soap, hand towel, toothbrush/toothpaste in each
- Family Disaster Plan handout for each participant
- Small treat for participants

(Note: Clothing should appear gently used)

Steps:

1. Cordon off an area, or set aside a small room of approximately 100-150 square feet or 10-13 square meters for this activity.
2. Spread ALL of the above materials out (except for the backpacks, handouts and sweets) randomly all over the contained activity area.
3. Gather 10-12 children together for this 15 minute activity. Parents are encouraged to stand around and enjoy watching the activity.
4. Ask the children to form 4 groups of 2 or 3. Ask them what kinds of hazards they face in their community and, in case of emergency, to think about what would they need with have with them? Explain that each group will have an empty backpack. They are to work in their team and they have 5 minutes to select 10 items to put in their "Emergency Go-Bag". This is not a competition. They just have to work as a team, think carefully, and put their selections in the bag. Hand them their bags and give them the signal to begin.
5. After 4 minutes announce to the children that they have 1 minute left.
6. After one more minute ask the children to come forward, outside of the activity area. Gather the children around, sitting down on the ground if possible. Ask each group to pass you their bag in turn. Remove each item one by one, asking the children why they included each particular item. Repeat and recognize all of their good choices and reasons. If there are items that don't belong (eg. baby clothes, but no little baby sister or brother, fresh food, too large toys) discuss these too.
7. After you have looked through each of the bags and used the opportunity to discuss with them, congratulate and thank each participant and offer them a treat. Also give them a copy of the Family Disaster Plan handout, and tell them that you hope that they will go home with their family and prepare - and share what they have learned with their friends and neighbors.
8. A complementary activity is to provide a single page with outline drawing of an empty backpack, and give children crayons to draw the things they think they'll need in the backpack. Display the children's drawings or make it a competition with a flashlight or similar useful item for top prizes.



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