

GET YOUR CHILD CARE PROGRAM READY FOR DARK NIGHTS/COLD WEATHER

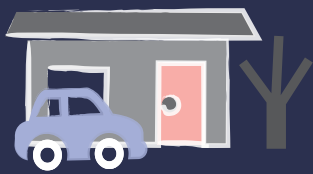
Emergency Preparedness Tips to Get Your Child Care Program Ready for Winter Weather

With winter fast approaching, child care programs **NEED TO ADJUST THEIR RULES**, protocols, and safety guidelines to keep children, parents, and staff safe. Providers must prepare for darker evenings, inclement weather, and unlawful tailgaters.

Follow these safety tips to prepare your child care program for winter emergencies:

For When It Gets Dark Early

Wintertime not only brings colder days and nights, but also a lot more darkness.



If you will be working late, take a moment to **MOVE YOUR VEHICLE** closer to the building.



ENCOURAGE staff to leave in groups - remember, there is safety in numbers!



Make sure your facility's parking lot **IS WELL-LIT**, and any large bushes or trees are trimmed. This increases visibility around your facility.

Remind Caregivers About Your Program's Plans



HAVE a winter weather emergency plan posted in every classroom. Make sure temporary staff and substitutes are aware of the emergency plan.



UPDATE the parent handbook to address winter storms, early morning and late evening pickups, power outages, and shelter-in-place protocols.



LET PARENTS KNOW that severe weather is in the forecast. Make sure they layer children in waterproof clothing and pack an extra set of medicine and diapers.



PROVIDE caregivers with alternative phone numbers to reach you and your staff in case the landline goes out.