Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery Considerations for Children and Families: An Institute of Medicine Workshop

Operationalizing Response Considerations for Children: Children’s Disaster Services
Can you see the children?

(benign neglect)
When we follow the child’s lead...

thoughts and concerns are expressed in play
What is happening?

Why were Mom & Dad crying?

Who will take care of me?

Where are Rover and Fluffy?

Why are we staying with Auntie?

I do not like it there.

Why can't we go home?
Children Begin to Recover

We teach our volunteers to follow the child’s lead…

They process the disaster experience at their own pace using the language of play.
CDS Equips Volunteers

- Volunteers from across the country
  - participate in a 27 hour experiential workshop
  - learn to interact with children after a disaster
  - undergo a rigorous screening process
CDS Supports Parents
Partner agencies report CDS creates an environment that makes it easier to give aid to those in need.
By offering child-centered care, emotional support, and a sense of normalcy, the CDS program helps

• meet the immediate needs of children,
• assists family members who may be overwhelmed as they attempt to deal with the effects of disaster, and
• plays an important role in fostering resiliency among children.

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Children’s Disaster Services
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A Program of Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries