# School emergencies and pickup plans

If an emergency hits during the school day, your children follow the school's plan, not yours. This page helps parents learn that plan, keep contact and pickup details current, and know when to wait rather than rush to the gate.

## CHECKLIST

- [ ] Emergency card in each child's school bag
- [ ] Matching contact card in your wallet
- [ ] School and nursery contact details
- [ ] Name of the person chosen to collect your children
- [ ] Backup contacts if you cannot be reached
- [ ] Extra essential medicines, such as an inhaler
- [ ] Extra food, milk or formula and overnight items your child needs
- [ ] School and childcare details written into your family plan

## PREPARE

- Learn the school's emergency plan, including how it will reach you and reunite families.
- Ask where parents should go to collect children after an evacuation.
- Tell the school straight away when your phone number or address changes.
- Name a backup person the school can call if your phone fails.
- Choose who will collect your children if you cannot, and give the school their name.
- Put an emergency card in each child's bag listing contacts, medicines and allergies.

## USE AND MAINTAIN

- Watch for school messages by text or app; Abu Dhabi schools must have fast parent alerts.
- If students are evacuated, do not go to the school; wait until officials say pickup is safe.
- Follow official instructions to shelter in place or evacuate.
- Watch for official text alerts from NCEMA, the Interior Ministry and police.
- Use texts or messages if calls fail, and keep any calls short.
- Stay calm and explain events to children in simple words.

## REVIEW

- Wait for the school to share the reunification location after the all clear.
- Expect children to be released only to a parent or verified pick-up person.
- Keep children with you or another trusted adult and reassure them.
- Ask about mental health support; Abu Dhabi schools must offer it after serious whole-school emergencies.

## IN THE UAE

Abu Dhabi schools must post their health and safety policy on their website and run emergency drills at least once a year, so parents can read the plan there.

## MY NOTES

Sources: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Before, During, and After an Emergency (https://www.cdc.gov/children-and-school-preparedness/before-during-after/index.html); US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Keeping Children Safe Away from Home (https://www.cdc.gov/children-and-school-preparedness/keeping-safe/index.html); US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lost and Found: Reuniting with Loved Ones in an Emergency (https://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2019/08/family-reunification/); Government of Canada, Make an emergency plan (https://www.canada.ca/en/services/policing/emergencies/preparedness/get-prepared/make-plan.html); Ready.gov (FEMA), Make a Plan Form (https://www.ready.gov/plan-form); Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), School Health and Safety Policy (https://www.adek.gov.ae/-/media/Project/TAMM/ADEK/Policies/School-Policies/Health-safety-and-wellbeing/ADEK_S_Health-and-Safety-Policy_EN.pdf); Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), Early Education Institutions Emergency Management Policy (https://www.adek.gov.ae/-/media/Project/TAMM/ADEK/Policies/Early-Education-Policies/Health-safety-and-wellbeing/ADEK_EEI_Emergency-Management-Policy_EN.pdf); UAE Government Portal (u.ae), Handling emergencies (https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/handling-emergencies); Welsh Government (GOV.WALES), Emergency planning and response guidance for education and childcare settings (https://gov.wales/emergency-planning-and-response-guidance-education-and-childcare-settings-html)
General guidance in our own words. Always follow your local authorities.