Here are some questions to ask the child care center about emergency preparedness:

■ Do you have a plan for local emergencies (such as hurricanes or snow storms), and is it possible to have a copy of the plan?

■ Do you have an evacuation plan to a safe, predetermined location? How will you evacuate children with mobility issues or special needs?

■ How and when will I be notified if there is an emergency? Do you have a central phone number that I can call? (Some facilities also use e-mails and text messaging)

■ Have you and your staff been trained on the emergency plan? How often?

■ Do you have emergency drills for the children? For the parents?

■ Do you have supply kits to meet the children’s needs for an extended amount of time? For how long? Are you willing to keep an extra supply of my child’s medication for emergencies?

■ Do state and local emergency agencies know of your center and its location?

■ How do you notify parents of any updates or changes to the emergency plan?