







CHILD-FOCUSED TORNADO PREP CHECKLIST

1.  **Know Your Safe Spot**
 - Identify your home's tornado shelter location
 - Choose backup options in case the main shelter is blocked
 - Visit and talk about the shelter space with your kids
 2.  **Teach Tornado Basics**
 - Teach the difference:
 - Tornado Watch = be alert
 - Tornado Warning = take shelter now
 - Use simple words, drawings, or games to explain
 - Repeat weekly for memory and confidence
 3.  **Practice Tornado Drills**
 - Set a timer—practice getting to shelter in under 60 seconds
 - Practice during different times of day
 - Role-play: "What if we're at home / school / outside?"
 - Keep tone calm and encouraging—no scare tactics
 4.  **Pack a Child-Friendly Emergency Kit**
 - Water bottle
 - Snacks
 - Flashlight (child-sized, easy to turn on)
 - Comfort item (stuffed animal, small blanket)
 - Helmet (bike or sports helmet for head protection)
 - Small game, book, or coloring activity
 5.  **Create a Family Communication Plan**
 - Make an emergency contact card with:
 - Parent/guardian names + numbers
 - Out-of-town contact
 - Home address
 - Laminate the card and keep in backpack or kit
 - Practice what to do if separated during a storm
 6.  **Involve Kids in the Process**
 - Let them help pack their kit
 - Assign them a job: flashlight, snacks, etc.
 - Reinforce with positive messages ("You're helping keep us safe!")
 - Make drills part of the routine—not a scary event
- Bonus Tip: Keep your kit in or near your shelter location for fast access. Refresh snacks, batteries, and contact info every 6 months.