

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# Child Care

## NEWS BRIEF



### Special Message from the TDHS Child Care Services Team

Today, our hearts and thoughts are with the families, children, educators, school administrators and all who have been impacted by the tragic event that occurred at Covenant School in Nashville. We greatly appreciate the emergency responders and the coordination of Woodmont Baptist Church in assisting the reunification efforts of families with their children.

The Department of Human Services is very sensitive to the social-emotional wellbeing and overall wellness of all involved and know the impact is far reaching. Tragic events such as these yield difficult conversations and emotions to manage for our children as well as for educators in early care and education environments. We want to share information on resources and tools that are available to assist in managing and supporting mental health during a time of emergency or tragedy.

The **Tennessee Child Care Resource & Referral Network** has coaching staff available with training on trauma informed care for Early Childhood Educators. Their Early Language Specialists have child-focused literature titles and activity handouts available on how to use the books and how to have conversations with the children. For more information, please reach out to your local network representative. [Tennessee Child Care Resource & Referral Network \(tnccrr.org\)](http://tnccrr.org).

As part of Emergency Preparedness, the **Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN)** has a *Preparedness for Emergency Response in Tennessee Toolkit*. It includes sections on emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. It has specific sections on supporting children, parents, and caregivers (including self and community care) following a disaster. [Emergency Preparedness — The Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee \(aimhitn.org\)](http://aimhitn.org).

As always, we have the **Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan** information and template on our website. It gives concrete information about drills and other steps to prepare for

a range of emergencies. [Child Care Emergency Preparedness \(tn.gov\)](#)

We encourage you to focus on your own wellbeing as well as for the children in your care. Should you need additional supports, please reach out to your Licensing Consultant and we will work to connect you to the tool or resource that will best serve your needs. We appreciate you and all that you do each and every day for the children and families of Tennessee.

Thank you,  
Child Care Services  
Tennessee Department of Human Services

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