

CANADIAN DISASTER CHILD CARE

This workshop is offered to ESS team members and volunteer caregivers who respond to children following disaster by providing specialized child care that focuses on using play to help children work through their feelings and regain control over their environment. Volunteers, who are equipped with a “Kit of Comfort”, set up child care facilities in Reception Centres thereby allowing parents and emergency response workers to focus on the tasks of disaster recovery.

Volunteers have successfully completed training, assessment and criminal record checks prior to being mentored into the program. Many use their skills on a regular basis with children who have experienced disaster or trauma.

Objectives:

- To understand how characteristics and needs of children change during disaster
- To learn appropriate responses to children suffering from stress and loss
- To demonstrate empathetic listening skills
- To understand the functions and goals of play in the child care centre
- To learn how to develop and use a ‘Kit of Comfort’
- To set up a child care centre
- To demonstrate the planning and decision-making process when called for disaster response
- To learn the expectations of the caregiver role and ethical guidelines
- To examine motivations for volunteering and wanting to care for children in disaster

Prerequisites:	Introduction to ESS, Reception Centre Operations
Audience:	ESS and adult volunteers, who wish to support those who have suffered pain and loss
Duration:	1.5 days (overnight stay in a simulated disaster setting)
Learning Activities:	Lecture, interactive activities, small group discussion, role playing, manual, videos
Class Size:	12 minimum – 25 maximum
Location:	In or near your community, often in a community facility such as a school or sports complex
Course Fee:	\$20 for ESS volunteers (non-ESS volunteers - \$50)

Registration Information:

Administration:

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