A MESSAGE TO GROWN-UPS: Floods are the most frequent and costly natural disasters, so it’s important to be prepared. As a household, create an emergency kit to take with you if you need to evacuate. Be sure to include water, snacks, a change of clothes, medications, a radio to listen for alerts, and books or non-electronic toys to keep household members occupied until it is safe to go home. Visit the Red Cross website at redcross.org/kit for a complete list.
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A MESSAGE TO GROWN-UPS: It’s important to know two ways to evacuate from your home if there is a flood, since your regular route may not be safe. Together, research two possible evacuation routes to a safe place, such as a building on higher ground or a local shelter. To learn more, visit redcross.org/flood.
A-Maze-ing Actions!

Part 1: Help Pedro get to the shelter safely. Show two ways. Be careful of the flood dangers! Circle places where it is not safe to go if there is a flood.

Part 2: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines to spell an important message to help stay safe in a flood!

T__ __N  A__ O__ N__,  D__N’__  __R__ W N!

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Your child has been learning about floods, including how to prepare for them and how to stay safe and healthy during and after a flood. Ask your child to share what they’ve learned by asking the following questions:

1. Why can floods be dangerous? (Answer: People can get knocked down and things like cars can get stuck or wash away. Flood water can be contaminated, meaning it is not healthy or safe to touch or play in. Fallen trees and power lines can hurt you.)

2. What are some important things we should have in an emergency kit? (Answer: water, snacks, toys, medications, a radio, a flashlight, dry clothes.)

3. What do we need to remember if we have to walk or drive outside during a flood? (Answer: “Turn around, don’t drown!”)

4. Why should we avoid touching or playing in water during or after a flood? (Answer: Flood water has dirt and germs in it, even if it looks clean. If toys or clothes have been in flood water, an adult should clean them before children touch them.)

Talk through the steps you would take as a household if there was a flood watch or warning in your area, to ensure that your child feels prepared and safe. For example, review these steps:

- Have your emergency supplies ready.
- Check for updates from the authorities.
- Be ready to evacuate if you need to.
- Designate one or two evacuation locations your household could get to quickly during a flood warning. Identify locations your community may have designated as evacuation go-to locations. The American Red Cross recommends going to the highest part of a building that you can, to stay safe from flood waters and debris.

- Draw a map of your area with your child. Include your home, your evacuation destinations and key roads and landmarks in between. Invite children to label each of these points on the map (or you can do so). Then have children draw arrows pointing from your home to the evacuation sites and trace lines showing how your household would evacuate to those spots.

- Practice your evacuation plan together and set calendar reminders to continue practicing twice a year so you are prepared!

A lot of feelings can emerge when discussing potential stressful events. To learn more about different coping skills to support your child’s resilience, go to redcross.org/youthresilience.

Learn More!
For more information, check out these resources:

- American Red Cross: redcross.org/flood
- Ready.gov: ready.gov/floods
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.html