

Dodge County stages mock childcare emergency

[Chris Higgins – WISC News](#)

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Parents got a taste of what they should do in an evacuation emergency from a local child care facility Tuesday.

The Dodge County Office of Emergency Management teamed up with the Community Care Childcare Center, 130 E. Maple Ave., to stage an evacuation drill and family reunification at the Beaver Dam Police Station.

The children were brought from the care facility to the police station about a block away and volunteer parents came to pick them up. Some of the parents had fake complications like not having an ID or speaking limited English. Responders needed to address the issues that came up just like they would in a real emergency.

“Safety and security is something that can never be taken lightly. This coordinated, comprehensive training exercise will go a long way to ensuring our students and community are prepared as we move forward,” said Renae Henning, the administrator of Community Care. “No one ever wants to think about the potential for a crisis, but by working with other agencies in this training, we will be that much better prepared to deal with an emergency. Only through exercises like this will we be able to evaluate our procedures and refine our protocols going forward.

“I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to work with these local response agencies,” she said.

The agencies that participated in the exercise were Dodge County Emergency Management, Community Care Childcare Center, Dodge County Public Health, the Beaver Dam Fire Department and EMS, Beaver Dam Police, and individual volunteers.

The exercise was one of many hosted by the Dodge County EPTEC consulting firm. Amy Nehls, the county’s director of emergency management, said that many child care centers in the county are using the countywide school plan and have participated in a forum on child care center safety. Some of the volunteers and observers came from other child care facilities.

“The full-scale exercise provided the opportunity for the child care centers and parents to test their reunification plans in a real-time simulation and to train and practice together to ensure that incident communications and management are ready should a situation occur in the county,” Nehls said.



Children are brought from the Community Care Childcare Center to the Beaver Dam Police Department on Tuesday. They participated in a drill testing what to do if parents needed to come pick up their children in an evacuation emergency.



Renaë Henning, the administrator of the Community Care Childcare Center, explains to Capt. Chris Ackley that he needs an ID to pick up his "child" during a child reunification exercise on Tuesday. Ackley pretended to be a Mr. Brown picking up his daughter during an emergency, but without identification.