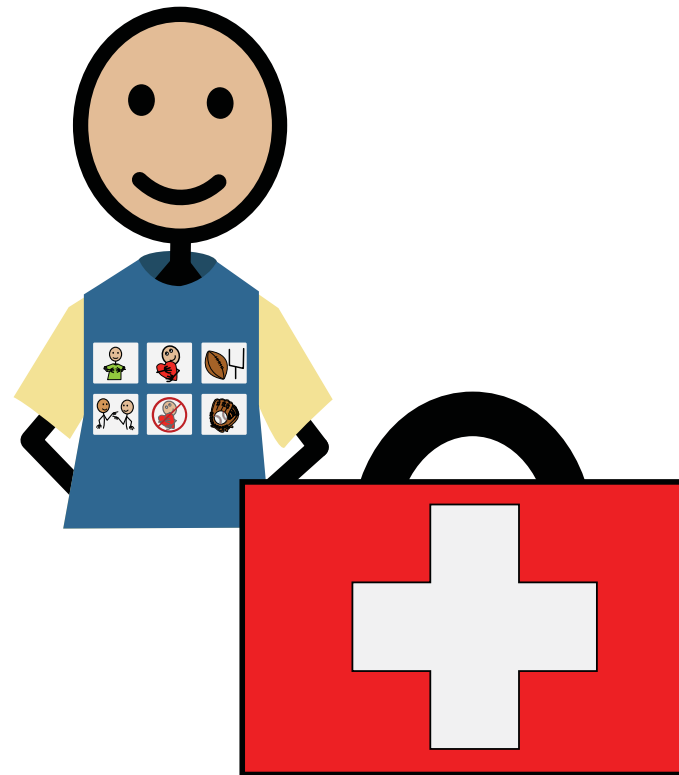
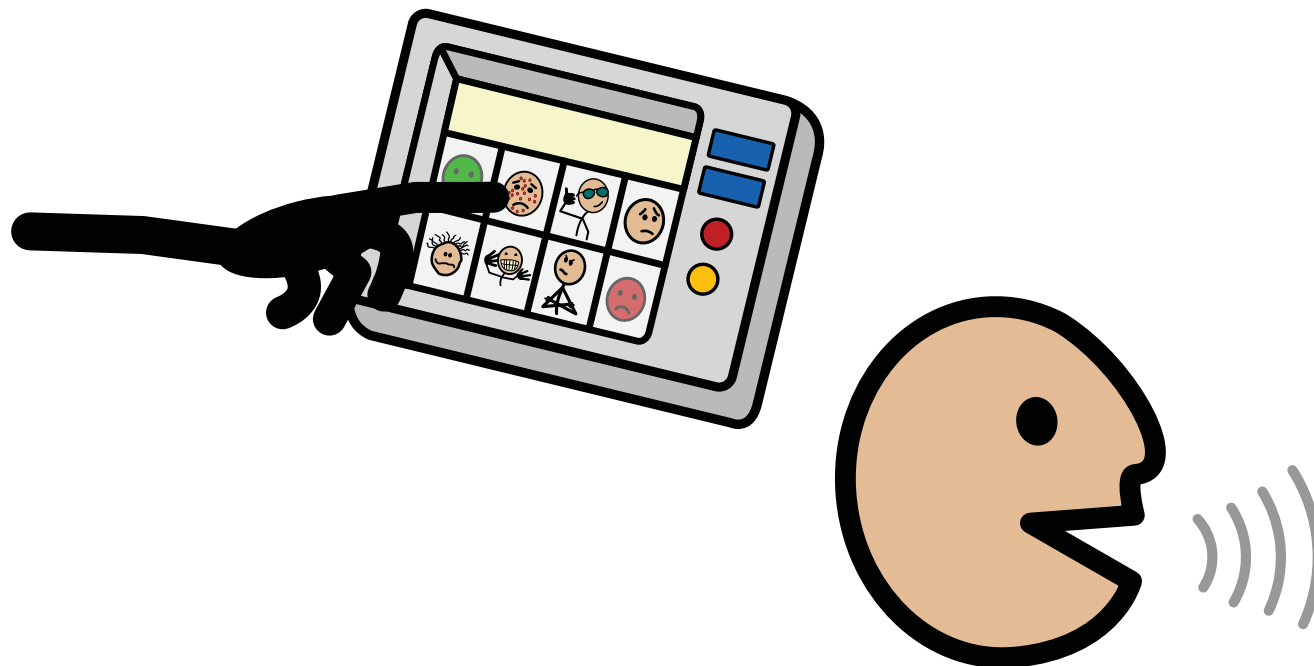




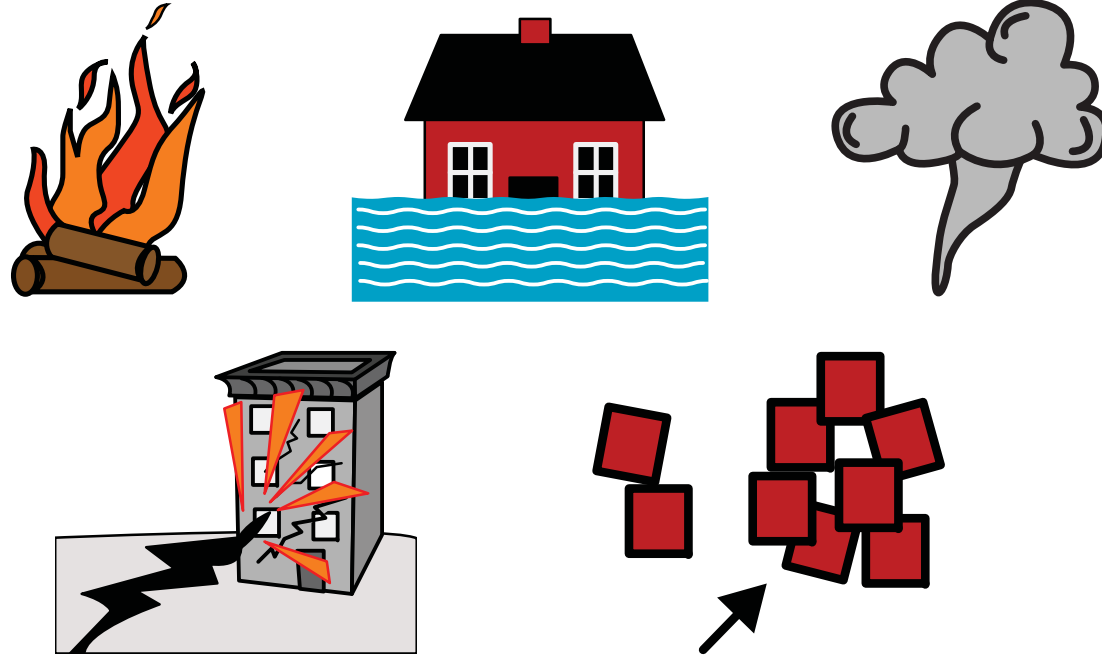
Billy Builds a Kit



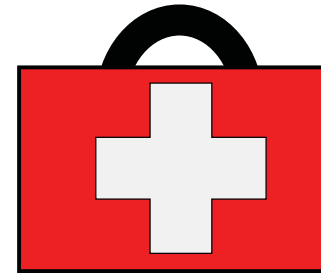
by Pam Kennedy,
AAC-RERC Writers Brigade



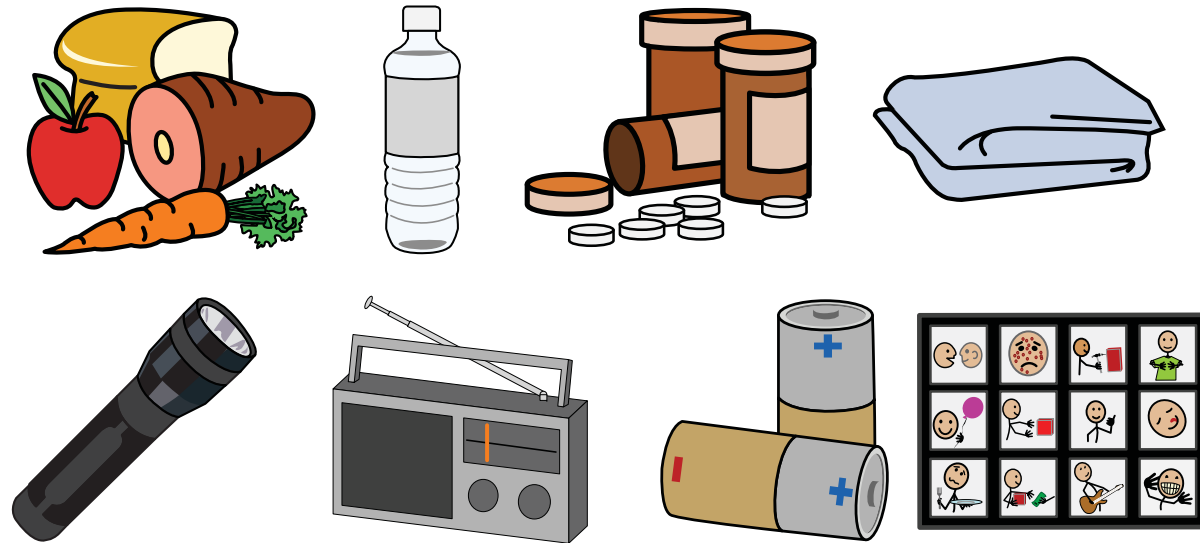
Billy Smith goes to Riverdale Grade School. Billy uses a device to help him talk. He points to a symbol on the device's screen. Each symbol picture stands for a word. The device's computer speaks the word for Billy.



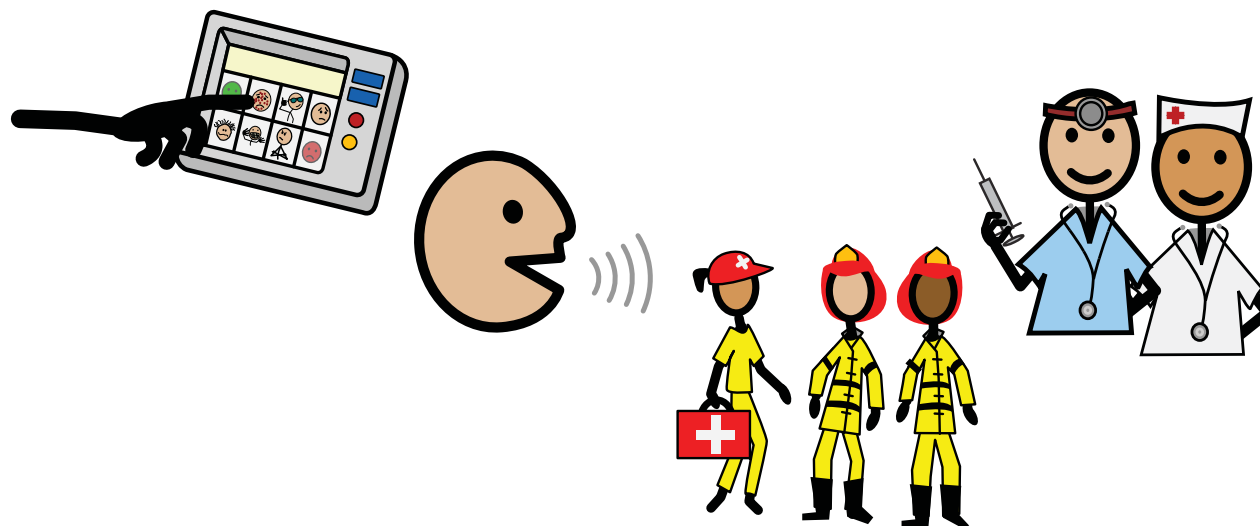
One day Billy’s teacher asked the class a question. She asked how many emergencies they could name. Billy named: fire, flood, tornado, earthquakes and many more. The teacher asked, “Are you ready for an emergency?”



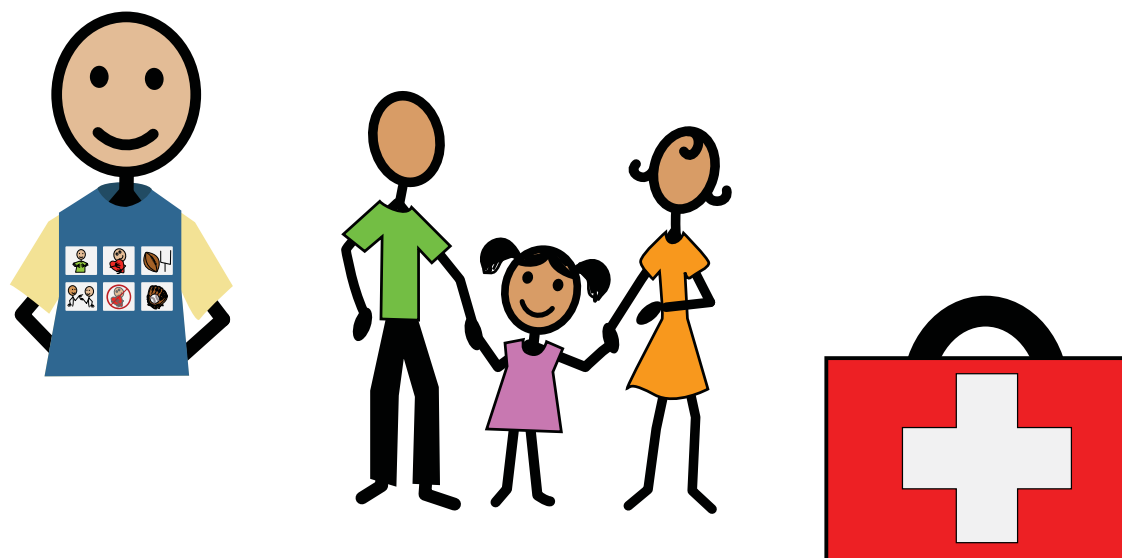
Billy did not know what to do in an emergency. The teacher gave the class some homework. She gave the symbols he would use in an emergency. She asked each child's family to make an emergency kit. Will you make a kit?



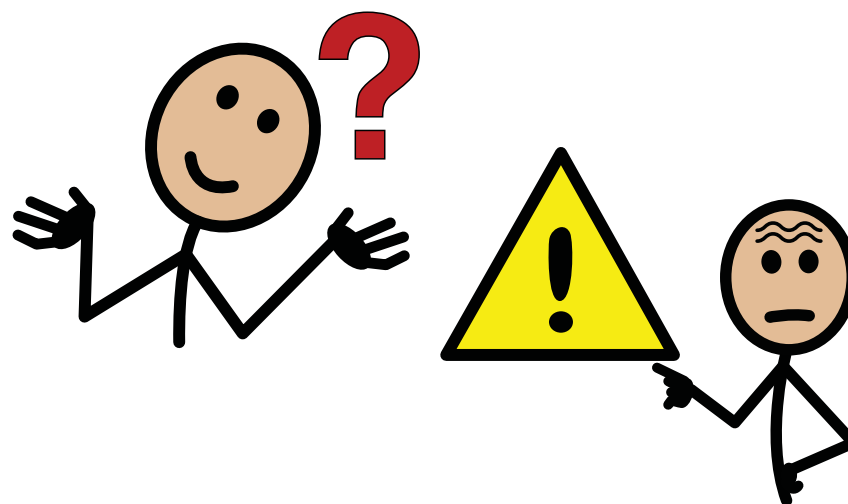
Billy was excited. He wanted his family to be safe in an emergency. He looked at the teacher's list. The list had: food, water, medicine, blankets, a flashlight, radio, batteries and communication board.



Billy used his new symbols to talk to his family. He could also use the symbols in a real emergency. If he was alone, he could use them to talk to rescuers. He could use them to talk to doctors. He could tell everyone what help he needed.



Billy's family saw they had a job to do. They needed to make an emergency kit. They gathered everything on the teacher's list. They talked about what to do in each emergency and made paper boards. Billy was happy; he knew his family would be safe.



What would you do in an emergency? Have you and your family talked about emergencies? Do you have an emergency kit ready to go? Get ready for trouble BEFORE it happens. Someday you may be very glad that you did.

The End

