Billy Builds a Kit

by Pam Kennedy
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.
The teacher asked, “Are you ready for an emergency? She asked how many emergencies they could name.

Billy did not know what to do in an emergency.

Billy named: fire, flood, tornado, earthquakes and many more.

The teacher gave the class some homework.
She gave them a list of things needed in an emergency.

She gave the symbols he would use in an emergency.

She asked each child’s family to make an emergency kit.

Billy was excited.

He wanted his family to be safe in an emergency.

He looked at the teacher’s list.
The list had:

- water
- medicine
- radio
- flashlight
- blankets
- batteries
- food

Billy used his new symbols to talk to his family.

He could also use the symbols in an 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.
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.