

# Family Night Activity: “Ready for the Storm!”

Theme: Family Preparedness & Working Together

Inspired by the book: *Sammie & Evie Run from a Storm* by Nettie David

## 1. Read Together

Start by reading *Sammie & Evie Run from a Storm*.

Afterward, talk about:

- What did Sammie and Evie’s family do to stay safe?
- How did they help each other?
- What would our family do if we had to leave home for a little while?

## 2. Build Your Own “Storm Bag”

Give each family member a backpack or tote.

Work together to fill it (real or pretend) with things you’d want in case of an emergency.

Use the categories from the story:

- Water / Food – bottles, granola bars
- Warmth / Light – flashlight, small blanket, lantern
- Hygiene / First Aid – toothbrush, wipes, bandages
- Comfort / Fun – favorite book, stuffed animal, card game

 **Tip:** If you don’t have everything, draw pictures or cut out magazine images to represent each item.

## 3. Create a Family Plan Poster

On a large piece of paper, draw your Family Storm Plan:

- Where will we meet if we can’t stay home?
- Who can we call for help?
- What jobs can each person do? (Example: Dad checks flashlights, Mom packs snacks, kids grab the pet leash.)

## 4. Practice “Lights Out”

Turn off the lights for 5 minutes and pretend the power went out.

Use only your flashlights or lanterns to:

- Tell a funny story
- Sing a song
- See who can find a favorite book or toy by flashlight

This helps kids feel calm and capable during real outages.

## 5. Reflection Time

Pick several questions from below to ask.

### Understanding the Story

1. What happened to the family during the storm?
2. How did they stay safe while the wind and rain were strong?
3. What did the family do after the storm passed?
4. How did the pictures change before, during, and after the storm?

### Feelings and Emotions

1. How do you think the boy and girl felt when the storm came?
2. Have you ever felt scared during thunder or heavy rain? What helped you feel safe?
3. How do you think the family felt when they started fixing their home?
4. What makes you feel better after something scary happens?

### Helping and Rebuilding

1. What kinds of jobs did everyone do to clean up after the storm?
2. Why is it important for families to work together?
3. How can neighbors or friends help each other after a storm?
4. What tools or supplies might be helpful when rebuilding?

### Hope and Gratitude

1. What are some things the family was thankful for after the storm?
2. What does it mean to be “safe and sound”?
3. What are some ways we can show kindness to others who have been through a storm?

## Preparedness and Learning

1. **What kinds of things would you pack in your own “storm bag”?**
2. **Why do we make emergency plans?**
3. **How can kids help parents get ready for bad weather?**
4. **What can we learn from the family’s experience?**

## Big Ideas

1. **What do you think the story is really about—just a storm, or something more?**
2. **What does it mean when people say, “storms don’t last forever”?**
3. **How can families stay strong, even when things get hard?**

**End with a family treat — “storm snacks”**

## Family Message

**“Being prepared doesn’t mean being scared.**

**It means taking care of one another — just like Sammie and Evie’s family did.”**

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