**Important Steps, Inc.**

***Early Childhood Program***

**2447 Eastchester Rd, Bronx, NY 10469**

**718-882-211/718-882-2117-Fax**

**HELPFUL INFORMATION for people affected by Hurricaine Sandy**

**FEMA**  1 800 621-3362

FEMA will provide up to $300 in food stamps for groceries

**IRS** (personal loss) ex: cars 1 800 829-1040

**Disaster Assistance Unemployment** 1 888 209-8124

**Medicaid**, Health Plus 1 855 693-6765

(Child Health Plus) (NY Health Options)

**Food Stamps** 1 718 557-1399

(Also known as The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program)

**Loss of Power during disaster** - 1 800 621-3362

**Notice to Homeowners**:

If your home heating oil tank has leaked into your basement or has been damaged by the storm, please contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYCDEC) to pump the oil out, free of charge.

**NYCDEC** can be reached at 1 718 482-7376.

**NYC Department of Sanitation**: The Department of Sanitation is making reduced trash collections to areas not heavily affected by the storm. They will not be collecting recyclables at the time, and ask that homes store their recyclables for now, so the Department can focus on Storm Cleanup in areas most devastated by Sandy.

**Power Safety Tips:**

If you are using a generator in your home for heat, be careful to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by take precautions like not using portable generators indoors, in garages, or near open windows.

If you are still without power and are using candles in your home, practice extreme caution. Never leave a candle unattended or burning through the night.

**Gas containers**:

With significant numbers of New Yorkers purchasing gasoline in portable containers, great caution should be followed:

* Gas containers should NEVER be brought inside: store and use outdoors only as gas is highly flammable, and gas fumes can ignite;
* NEVER refuel a running generator. It should be shut down and allowed to cool before refueling, as the hot surface can ignite the gas fumes;
* Use only approved containers - no more than 5 gallons;
* Use caution when transporting gas containers. If transporting in a vehicle, place sealed container on floor in back seat and keep windows open to vent any fumes;
* Do not smoke or use any item that can cause a spark anywhere near gasoline.