



## **Earthquake Drill Procedure**

During an earthquake, the best option is to take cover within the building.

### ***Emergency signal***

Staff should call "EARTHQUAKE" to signal the beginning of an earthquake drill.

### ***After the signal***

Child safety and security will be first priority. All adults will secure infants & toddlers quickly and be required to take appropriate action as outlined.

If a sturdy desk or table is near and available, children should take cover under it and hold onto its legs. If the desk or table moves, move with it. If cover is not available children should drop to their knees, away from windows and preferably in a marked area. They should adopt the "turtle position": keep knees together; clasp both hands firmly behind their heads; bury their faces in their arms, protecting their heads; close their eyes tightly; and stay in this position until it is safe to move. In an earthquake this may be several minutes (and may seem far longer).

If children and staff cannot move away from windows, they should turn away from the glass to minimise injuries from broken glass. Adults and children will practice this to become familiar with the procedure should an earthquake occur.

### ***Remain in place***

Everyone should remain in the building until the shaking has stopped and the "All Clear" is given by the person responsible. Staff and children should resist the urge to escape from the building. Falling debris is responsible for most earthquake casualties. Usually, less debris and glass will fall inside the building than outside.

### ***If outside the building***

In a drill simulating an earthquake when staff and children are outside the building, staff should give the alarm "EARTHQUAKE". If all children are clear of the building and of other hazards which might fall on them, the drill should have them sit down at once. If they are in a potential hazard area, staff should assist children and others to a safe assembly area. They should then sit down until the "All Clear" is given.

### ***Earthquake/fire***

When planning and practising drills, staff should bear in mind that there is a risk of fire during and after an earthquake. This could result from breaking of gas pipes, electrical wiring, or dislodged heaters, stoves, open fires, chimneys, etc.

### ***Evacuation of building***

If the drill includes the signal to evacuate the building, everyone should go by the safest escape route to an agreed safe assembly area. Keep well clear of overhead power lines, banks, or other objects or structures which may fall.