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The Disaster Assistance Stage – Immediately following a disaster –  
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**THE  
LESSON 2**

## **Pre-planned Childcare Frees First Responders**

When disaster strikes, critical first responders must be able to drop everything and rush to the scene. That's why each base of Japan's Ground Self Defense Forces (GSDF) has facilities and procedures ready on short notice to receive the children of personnel called suddenly to disaster zones.

Hours after the 3/11 earthquake, temporary childcare facilities were opened at 19 GSDF bases. Thanks to quick care for 1,138 children, 931 personnel were ready for immediate dispatch to the affected areas.

This greatly enhanced the GSDF's response readiness, especially among female personnel with children.

First responders need to know all's well on the home front.

