

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS



Students who have serious, acute, chronic or life threatening medical conditions often have special health care needs at school and school events. They may need an Individual Health Plan (IHP). An IHP is a formal written plan developed by the school staff together with the student's family, school nurse, health care professionals and the student.

WHAT IS AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH PLAN (IHP)?

- ✦ Formal plan that defines student's needs due to the health condition.
- ✦ Plan to resolve needs with goals, outcomes, priorities and timelines.

WHY AN IHP?

- ✦ Ensures the school has information & authorization
- ✦ Specifies changes to the student's needs
- ✦ Addresses family & school concerns
- ✦ Clarifies roles & responsibilities
- ✦ Establishes ongoing teamwork, communication & evaluation
- ✦ Addresses transportation needs

STUDENTS WHO MIGHT NEED AN IHP MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE WITH:

- ✦ Asthma
- ✦ Seizure Disorder
- ✦ ADHD
- ✦ Chronic or acute medical conditions (cystic fibrosis, diabetes, cancer)
- ✦ Physical disabilities
- ✦ Medication and medical needs
- ✦ Serious allergies

IF YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH ISSUES IMPACT HIM OR HER IN WAYS LISTED BELOW, YOU WILL WANT TO MEET WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO ENSURE MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ARE BEING MET:

- ✦ Medication administration and management
- ✦ Emergency planning
- ✦ School attendance
- ✦ Fatigue & endurance issues
- ✦ Need for hygiene assistance
- ✦ Disease symptoms & medication side effects that may affect learning
- ✦ Pain or pain medication that impairs concentration and stamina
- ✦ Disease/condition that places student at increased risk of infection
- ✦ Management and administration of health care intervention (e.g., tube feedings, trach suctioning, chest percussions, etc.)

WHAT SHOULD AN IHP INCLUDE?

- ✦ Child's diagnosis and health care needs
- ✦ Required accommodations
- ✦ Goals, interventions, outcomes & timelines regarding appropriate self care
- ✦ Make-up instruction for those with temporary or chronic illnesses or injuries
- ✦ How instructional time is impacted by health care needs
 - o Medication dosage schedule or necessary medical interventions
 - o Emergency plan
 - o Special services required, including field trips
 - o Support from staff on health care needs

ASK



About • Special • Kids
Answers for families of kids with special needs

7172 Graham Road, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Phone: 317-257-8683

Toll Free: 800-964-4746

Fax: 317-251-7488

www.aboutspecialkids.org

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE IHP?

- Get medical orders from child's doctor/providers
- School nurse creates plan after review of medical orders from doctor/providers
- Can be part of a Section 504, IEP or stand alone plan (see definitions below)
- Each plan is unique to student's needs

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)

An IEP may be the appropriate place to include a student's IHP if the disability adversely affects the student's educational performance and/or falls within the Other Health Impairment (OHI) or any other special education eligibility criteria. Students who have an IEP are protected under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

SECTION 504

The IHP may also be included in a student's Section 504 plan. Section 504 is a law that protects students with disabilities and ensures that they have equal access to an education.

Talk to your school or one of the organizations listed below to find out if the student is eligible for an IEP or 504 or if he/she can be served with a separate IHP.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

About Special Kids (ASK)

Toll Free: 800-964-4746

www.aboutspecialkids.org

Center for Exceptional Learners Indiana Department of Education

Toll Free: 877-851-4106

www.doe.in/gov/exceptional

IN*SOURCE

Toll Free: 800-332-4433

www.insource.org

Family Voices Indiana

www.familyvoicesindiana.org/states.php?state=IN

<http://fvindiana.blogspot.com>

ASK



About • Special • Kids

Answers for families of kids with special needs

7172 Graham Road, Suite 100

Indianapolis, IN 46250

Phone: 317-257-8683

Toll Free: 800-964-4746

Fax: 317-251-7488

www.aboutspecialkids.org

This was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs, Grant #H84MC07944, About Special Kids.