

Tips to Thrive

DO YOUR HOMEWORK ON YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

To ensure your child on nutrition support receives a safe education that meets their needs, do your homework. Negotiating educational benefits and medical interests can be challenging. Being the best advocate for your child involves working together with your school and learning how education laws apply to your child on nutrition support. Our Education Tool Kit covers issues that are important for children who are dependent on nutrition support and will help guide you through the process.

Consider All Education Settings

When deciding on public school, private school, or home schooling, choose the option that best suits your child's educational and medical needs, as well as your needs as a family. One size does not fit all. Examine the rewards and challenges each setting offers.

Educate Yourself About Laws and Regulations

Federal and state regulations have been developed to ensure a child with a disability has access to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment possible. This includes children on nutrition support. Learning about your rights and responsibilities will assist you in developing the most appropriate plan to meet your child's educational and medical needs. Examples include the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Individualized Education Plan (IEP); and Section 504 Plan (504).

Learn About the Individualized Health Plan (IHP) and Emergency Care Plan (ECP)

Work with your school team to develop an IHP and ECP that clearly communicate your child's specific health care needs, identify who is responsible for monitoring your child, and explain how to manage urgent and acute issues.

Reasonable Accommodations

Identify modifications the school might need to make to address your child's unique medical needs. These will allow your child to safely attend school and have access to a free education as guaranteed by law.

Provide a Physician Letter

A letter from your child's medical team can document your child's medical condition and provide guidance on appropriate support at school. The letter template in the ThriveRx Tool Kit can be used as a guide to explaining your child's complicated medical needs and rationale for reasonable accommodations.

Examine Nursing Coverage at School

Some children on home nutrition support need nursing support while at school. Learn what the law says regarding nursing care in school and how to negotiate for the best care for your child in the school setting.



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