



What is a Care Plan?

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enacted in 1990, requires reasonable accommodation to enable equal participation in services for individuals with a disability. This includes children with ongoing special needs such as asthma, allergies, diabetes and seizures as well as those who have a temporary condition such as a broken arm.

Developing a care plan

Any child who has an ongoing or temporary special health, behavioral or developmental need should have a written care plan. These plans are typically developed by a team of people who know and care for the child, including the child's parents, physician, therapist, health consultant or inclusion specialist.

A care plan should include:

- General information about the child such as name, family contacts, IFSP or IEP.
- Information related to the health condition such as description of the health condition(s) nutrition or transportation needs, etc.
- Information about how to manage a child's special needs on a daily basis.
- Information for emergency care such as procedures, contact information, etc.

Benefits of a care plan

Written care plans:

- Ensure a child's special needs are being met consistently.
- Prevent mistakes by having care information in writing.
- Allow caregivers to feel more comfortable when caring for children with special needs.