

Since 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires reasonable accommodation to enable equal participation in services for individuals with disability.

Any child enrolled in child care who has a special **health or developmental need** should have a written health care plan (HCP) developed by a team of people who know and care for the child's special needs. This may include the child's parents, physician, caregiver and a child care health consultant. If the child has an IFSP or an IEP, the HCP would be part of the over all plan for that child.

Individual Health Care Plans are developed to ensure that the people who care for the child have the information they need to allow the child to participate as fully as possible in the child care program. Each plan explains how to manage the child's condition on a daily basis and in an emergency.

The plan should include:

1. General **information about the child** such as name, family contacts, IFSP or IEP
2. Information related to the **health condition** such as description of the health condition(s) nutrition or transportation needs, etc.
3. Information for **emergency care** such as procedures for medical emergencies, contact information, etc.

Children with special health care needs usually have chronic health conditions such as *asthma, allergies, diabetes and seizures*. Some children may have a *temporary condition* like a broken arm. Health Care Plans and the partnerships that develop among those who care for the child help ensure the child's optimal health and development needs are being met consistently.

Your child care health consultant can provide you with the appropriate forms to create an individual HCP.

Every child deserves to be safe and well-cared for in child care! Health Care Plans can help prevent mistakes by having information in writing and allows caregivers to feel more comfortable in caring for children with special health care needs.