

Planning for Children with Special Health Needs in Your Child Care Setting



Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Definition

“CYSHCN are children who have or are at increased risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions. They also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.” source: HRSA Maternal and Child Health

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs NSCH Data Brief | June 2022

In 2019-2020, nearly 1 in 5 children (19.4%) in the United States had a special health care need representing 14.1 million children.

Source: HRSA Maternal and Child Health

Iowa Data

- Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinic estimates “**approximately 145,000 Iowa children and youth (20%)** have a special health care need often requiring services and supports from many different providers and specialists.”
Source: Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinic

- **827** Children with Special Health Care Needs in child care settings identified by local CCNCs Source: Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) Annual Report Fiscal Year 22

BACKGROUND ON CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

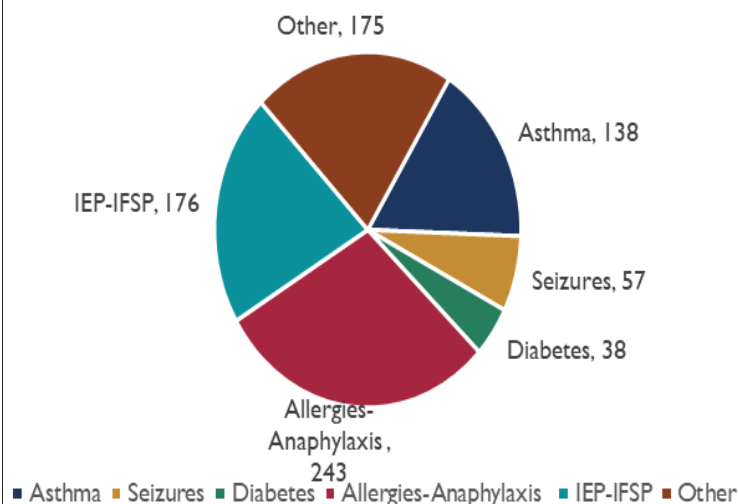
In Iowa, there is a high percentage of both parents working, which means many children are in a child care setting. Your program may already care for a child or children with special health care needs. If your program has not yet had a child with special health needs enroll, now is the time to learn more on how to plan or enhance your plan, if you are already serving children with special health needs. Everyone benefits when child care programs provide all-encompassing care.

COLLABORATING WITH YOUR CCNC FOR PLANNING

There are many things to consider when planning for a child with a special health need and it may seem overwhelming. This is where your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) can help you.

Your CCNC provides free consultation to you and provides guidance and support in planning a safe and healthy environment for children with special health needs.

HCCI FY 22 Data-Number of Children with Special Health Needs





Benefits of Working With Your CCNC

- Ensures that needed resources, knowledge, training and a specialized individual care plan or action plan is in place for the child.
- Helps both you and the family feel comfortable and confident when the child is in your program.
- Provides the child with special health needs a healthy and safe environment where all children, staff and families benefit.
- Helps you to meet Iowa HHS child care regulations for children with special health needs.
- In addition to the above, it builds a great foundation and continued collaboration with your CCNC for any additional health and safety support and consultation that your program would like to enhance. (i.e. *Immunization Reviews, Health and Safety Checklist, infectious disease guidance, Outdoor play areas, Physical Activity and Nutrition, etc.*) Ask your CCNC about additional services available!

AS YOU START PLANNING

Do you have:

Questions on how to plan and develop an environment for children with special health needs?

A child with a special health care need in your program or will be enrolling?

Concerns or unsure about how to care for the child's health needs or how to implement the care plan?

If you answered **YES** to any of those questions, your program, the child with special health needs and their family will benefit by partnering with your local **Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC)** for consultation and resources.

Click [here](#) for the CCNC map.

YOUR CCNC CAN ASSIST YOU WITH:

- * Review or assisting with obtaining an individualized care plan.
- * Discussion and review on what to do in an emergency.
- * Support for you and the families by helping to answer any questions that may come up.
- * Assisting you in the identification of any barriers that may prohibit children with special health or developmental needs from enrolling and participating in the program and activities, including outdoor playground facilities and helping you with developing solutions or finding resources.
- * Connecting your program and families with resources for children with special health care needs such as support groups or other programs available.
- * Helpful resources such as medication administration forms, sample care plans and other educational material. Can provide you with specialized training and provides HCCI Medication Administration training.
- * Working with you, the family and health specialists (i.e. Doctor, Physical Therapist, Respiratory Therapist, etc.) to develop a individualized care plan or action plan that is easy to understand and follow.
- * Helping you with understanding the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and what responsibilities you have to meet for children with special health care needs.



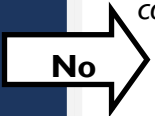
Special Health Care Planning

(Use this diagram below to help with planning for a child with a special health care need)

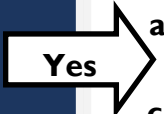
Care Plan or Action Plan

PLANNING RESOURCES

1.) Do you have an individualized care plan or action plan for the child who is enrolled or is enrolling?



You will need to have a plan in place. Please contact your local CCNC for assistance

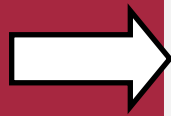


Continue to obtain updates for the plan as needed (i.e. after hospitalization or change in health. Recommend to update yearly if no changes in the child's health. Questions on the plan contact your local CCNC

Healthy Child Care Iowa
Many sample care plans and action plans along with medication sample forms available online:
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/hcci/products>

Caring for Our Children
National Health and Safety Performance Standards:
https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Special_Needs

2.) Do you have the following information in the box to the right for planning?



Important Information For Planning and Care Plans

3.) Do you have any questions, concerns or need training regarding anything listed in the box to the right?

If Yes, Contact your local Child Care Nurse Consultant for assistance.

- Child's diagnosis and understanding of diagnosis
- Child's primary Doctor and Specialists (Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapist etc.)
- Medications needed both emergency and routine
- Easy to understand instructions for the plan
- Any diet modifications that may be needed
- Any environmental modifications
- Type of activity level for child
- Educational resources
- Training for staff or yourself (Medication Administration or specific training related to the child)
- Special equipment if needed
- List of any allergies for child
- Emergency to go kit and plan
- Medication Policies
- Any additional information that is pertinent to the child's health and well-being
- Review of Caring for Our Children resource for Special Health Care Needs resource (see resource link above)