

Supporting a child with medical needs

What it looks like	Strategies to support
<p>Further guidance for children with medical needs can be found in the documents 'Supporting Children at School with Medical Conditions' DfE (2015) and 'Managing Medicines in School and Early Years Settings' (see link)</p> <p>Children may experience ill health at some point during their time in education and others may have an ongoing medical condition that that potentially impairs their ability to access education</p> <p>Terminology</p> <p>Acute – conditions which are severe in onset e.g. broken bones, asthma attack</p> <p>Chronic – long-developing conditions which are persistent or long-lasting often applied when a disease lasts longer than 3 months e.g. osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bones)</p> <p>Life-limiting/life-shortening - conditions for which there is no reasonable hope of cure and from which children or young people will die. Some children might live into early adulthood, but their life will be shortened as a result of the diagnosed condition. Some of these conditions cause progressive deterioration increasing a child's reliance on parents and carers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a link from your setting who parents/carers can contact when necessary and vice versa. Parent/carers know their child best and they can provide lots of information around the child's medical needs • Think child first – don't focus on the medical condition and forget the child as a person • Find out which professionals are working with the child so contact can be made and advice sought • Access training and medical support for children with complex care needs, if appropriate e.g. through Diana Team • Follow individual health care plans as advised by medical professional e.g. individual protocols for epilepsy emergency procedures • Store medicines safely in a locked cupboard. Medication needs to be in the correct packaging and have the child's name on, a current date and clear instructions and dosage. Instructions need to be checked. When administering medicines two people need to witness and record amount given, and time administered. • Funding maybe available if the child needs extra support e.g. Disability Access Funding (DAF) for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and special educational needs inclusion funding (SENIF) for children who need extra support to ensure their wellbeing and inclusion (see link) • Communicate with parent/carers regularly; a communication book will help you record events, questions and observations which can be passed between home and setting. • Be aware of tiredness • Prepare the other children about what to expect and how to act if appropriate

Life- threatening - conditions which curative treatment may be feasible but can fail, such as cancer.

- If the child is absent for long periods, try the 'panda in my seat idea' to help maintain the visibility of the child with their friends. The panda has a backpack which can be used to hold notes from friends which can be taken regularly to the child.
- Be aware of the impact of a chronic illness on other members of the family