



CCNC Contact:

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COVID-19 Resources

DHS

www.dhs.iowa.gov/
[COVID19](#)

HCCI

www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products

CCR&R

www.iowaccrr.org/providers/links/resources2020/

CDC

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.

The Child Care Nurse Consultant Program is funded by



www.earlychildhood.iowa.gov

Children with Special Health Needs



There are many children in early childhood care environments who have chronic health needs. A few common chronic health conditions in kids are asthma, diabetes and food allergies. Some conditions, such as diabetes, can be complicated to understand. For example, children who have diabetes must have their blood glucose monitored, eat a special diet and may need medication for low blood sugar or have an insulin pump or need insulin injections. Caring for a child with chronic health needs can seem overwhelming and challenging to childcare professionals who do not have experience with special health needs. To help childcare professionals learn about chronic health needs in children, there are [Child Care Nurse Consultants \(CCNCs\) located statewide](#) that can assist with creating a plan to care for children with additional needs.

The Caring For Our Children: Guidelines for Early Care and Education Program (CFOC) states “Inclusion and participation of children with special health care needs requires proactive planning.” CFOC recommends including a child care health consultant or CCNC because they have the knowledge and expertise of adding inclusion to childcare programs. CCNCs can work with families, physicians and child care providers and staff to build a safe foundation of care while the child attends their program. CCNCs explain medical terms and medications, review or assist with building an individualized care plan and discuss what to do in an emergency. They support providers and families and can help answer any questions that may come up to make sure that the child has their special health care needs met while enrolled in an early childhood environment. Regardless if a child with additional needs is attending (or is currently attending) a program, the first step to create a plan for inclusion into the center is to contact a local CCNC to set up a consultation.

Working with a CCNC is a valuable way to ensure that needed resources, knowledge, training and a specialized individual health care plan are in place for the child. This helps both the provider and parent or guardian to feel comfortable and confident when the child is with the child care provider or child care staff.

HOW TO BUILD A PLAN FOR INCLUSION

— Add a question about special health needs and any medications that the child is prescribed on enrollment forms. This helps child care providers when creating a plan before the child’s first day.

— Attend CCNCs training from Healthy Child Care Iowa on topics like “Caring for Children with Asthma: The Young and the Breathless” and “Caring for Children with Allergies, Anaphylaxis and Seizures.” CCNC training sessions are listed on the [PoWeR website](#). Remember to search for health and safety training sessions.

— Visit CFOC's website for [Inclusion of Children with Special Needs in the Child Care Setting](#) for further information.

Visit Healthy Child Care Iowa’s at www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products for special health care information and resources for ECE.