

Prepare for school meetings

Estimated time: 2 hrs

There are a few meetings you'll want to prepare for to ensure your child gets the proper care at school.

The Meetings

1. **School Meeting:** The first meeting is between you and the administrator (usually school principal) and a member of the health staff (usually school nurse).
2. **504 Meeting:** The second is more official and is called a "504 meeting". Not all families choose to complete a Section 504 Plan, however it is entirely up to you (most choose to do so, as it guarantees your child has equal access to everything other). School officials often make accommodations for students without a written plan. However, a written plan is desirable as it formally identifies the students as having a disability and assures that everyone involved understand their role.

What to prepare for meetings

1. Get updated doctor's orders

2. Identify emergency contact information

- Your name and contact information
- Doctor's name and contact information

3. Identify your child's performance of diabetes care tasks at home

Provide specific information to the school health team about your child's diabetes and performance of diabetes care tasks at home. These will depend on the age of your child and your child. Consider the following:

- Diabetes care tasks your child can perform without help or supervision
- Diabetes care tasks your child needs assistance or supervision with
- Diabetes care tasks that should be performed by the school nurse or trained diabetes personnel

4. Help the school by providing training guides for school staff

- This isn't entirely your responsibility, but the staff will be happy you did!

- Let us know if you want help with this.

5. Outline specific development goals for the school year for your child

- We recommend giving this some thought. Maybe you want to help your child build some confidence or independence while managing diabetes. Again, this is very age-dependent, but something that is recommended. Informing the health staff will give you a partner in this care as well.

6. Identify your objectives for your child's safety.

- This will help ensure you're on the same page with everyone at the school. Things like "have someone available at all times to test his blood sugar" and "have a staff member trained to administer insulin for snacks and blood sugar corrections" are obvious ones but will help you get on the same page with school staff.

Tips & Tricks

- Child Development Goals: As kids grow, they learn to care for themselves. The same holds true for diabetes-related tasks. But every child is different, so it's important to understand where they are and the help they rely on from the adults around them. There's no hard and fast rule, but here are some sample developmental guidelines for diabetes tasks.
- 504 Plans: Here's a sample 504 plan.

FAQ:

1. **None yet!** But feel free to ask if you have any questions.