

## Children with Special Health Care Needs



A **child with special health care needs** is defined by OCFS regulations as a child who has a “chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition that is expected to last 12 months or more and who requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.”

To care for a child with special health care needs, you must work with the child’s parent and health care provider to write an *Individual Health Care Plan for a Child with Special Health Care Needs* (see Handout 10.5). The plan must:

- Describe the special health care needs of the child.
- List the program staff who will provide care to this child. All staff who will administer medication or treatments to the child must be approved medication administrators.
- Describe any additional training or skills the staff identified will need to give the medication or treatment to the child, what the training will be and who will provide this training.
- Have an authorized program representative and the parent sign the child’s *Individual Health Care Plan for a Child with Special Health Care Needs*. Keep the plan on file.

Because administration techniques and the needs of children differ, any training staff receive to care for a child with special health care needs is child-specific and is not transferable from one child to another.



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