

ENROLMENT AND ORIENTATION - AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN ENSURING EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

ORIENTATION PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A feeling of safety and security that the world and oneself are all right. Basic trust comes from responsive, predictable care from familiar others. Without this sense, the world is too scary a place to cope with and learn about. All self-esteem, all courage to accept challenges are founded on developing a profound, basic trust. What makes a feeling of being at home is that sense of familiarity, acceptance, safety, of being with people you know and care about, and who care about you.

(Erik Erikson)

Create trust and feelings of security for children and young people by:



Providing responsive and predictable care and learning experiences.



Ensuring children know that their needs will be met.



Creating feelings of familiarity in the OSHC program - a 'sense of the familiar' so the child knows that they have a place to belong.



Communicating that they are accepted and safe in the OSHC program.



Role modelling care, interest and enjoyment about being around the child and young person.

Educators work with children and young people... to ensure successful transitions between settings so that children and young people feel secure and confident. They assist children and young people to understand the traditions, routines and practices of the settings to which they are moving and to feel comfortable with the process of change.

(My Time, Our Place V2, p. 25).

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KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. The pre-enrolment visit & service tour

This is an opportunity to:

- Introduce the child and family to the children and the team and to the service Share information about the Medical Conditions Policy and procedures
- Talk about your service philosophy and ways of working with children and young people to ensure the medical needs are met and children are included in the program



2. Enrolment process and procedures

This is where you will:

- Invite families for an initial meeting with the Nominated Supervisor.
- Share relevant documentation with the family (e.g.: parent handbook, enrolment form)
- Seek out information from the family about their child's specific medical condition
- Assess whether additional professional development or training for the team is required to support the child with their medical condition
- Map out any other stakeholders who are relevant, and make contact e.g., inclusion agency, health professionals.

3. Before a new child starts attending the service

Gather the following information from the family regarding their child's specific medical condition:

- Documented healthcare needs of the child, including allergies and intolerances
- Medical Management Plan for the specific medical condition or allergy. (eg: anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes)

Also ensure that you:

- Discuss risk minimisation strategies and methods of communication with the family and document these on a Risk Minimisation Plan and Communications Plan. Share these plans with the family and staff in your service.
- Ensure details of medication, dosage, circumstances of administration, and responsibilities are detailed on the Risk Minimisation Plan, including reference to medication that may be administered by the school prior to the child entering OSHC care. Clear instructions should be documented and all staff must be informed of these circumstances.
- Obtain any relevant medication before the child starts.

N.B The above information is gathered in addition to the required Enrolment Record -See Regulation 160.