

Children with Special Medical Needs

All children are special. However, what the term refers to are those children who, due to some physical, mental, behavioral, developmental, or emotional disability, need special care. Special medical needs may include vision problems, hearing problems, and long-term conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, among others. Approximately 1 in 5 children require specialized medical care.

What care may a child with a special medical need?

- Treatment will depend on the type of disability you suffer from.
- You may need a variety of resources, including medications, therapies, home, and school adjustments, and more.
- According to the level of disability, you are likely to visit doctors, specialists, and therapists more frequently. The objective of specialized medical care focuses on improving your quality of life, preventing the disability from worsening, reducing symptoms, keeping you active and promoting, to the extent possible, your independence.



Medical assistance equipment

Depending on the child's special medical need, assistance equipment or supplies will be required, including:

Shower and/or wheelchair chair

Nebulizer and/or oxygen equipment

Hearing aids and/or glasses

Prosthetics, wound care supplies

If you have a child with a special medical need:

- Learn about the child's disability.
- Schedule and attend all medical visits.
- Ensure that the child uses medications and assistive equipment, as indicated by the doctor.

Learn more at:

Birth Defects Surveillance and Prevention System:

787-765-2929 ext. 4571,4591,4574,4698

Children with Special Medical Needs Section (SNTE):

787-765-2929 ext. 4587

APNI – Support for parents with children with disabilities:787-763-4665

Social and Emotional Aspect

For recommendations, tools, and resources on how you and your family can cope with the emotional and physical concerns that arise during and after treatment, please visit your primary care physician or contact the following telephone lines:

Medical Advice Line:1-844-347-7801

TTY/TDD 1-844-347-7804

APS Health:787-641-9133

Reference:

<https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/es/children-with-special-healthcare-needs.html>

<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/special-needs.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/spanish/developmentaldisabilities/features/developmental-disabilities-among-us-children.html>

Prepared by licensed Health Educators.

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