

Children with Special Medical Needs

All children are special, however, what the term refers to are those children who, because of physical, mental, behavioral, developmental or emotional limitations, need special care. Special medical needs may include visual impairment, hearing impairment, and long-term illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, among others.

What care may a child with special health care needs require?

- Treatment will depend on the type of disability.
- They may need a variety of resources, including medications, therapies, home and school accommodation, among others.
- Depending on the level of disability, you will probably see doctors, specialists and therapists more frequently. The goal of specialized medical care is to improve your quality of life, prevent the disability from worsening, reduce symptoms, keep you active and promote, to the extent possible, your independence.



Assistance equipment

Depending on the child's special medical needs, assistance equipment or supplies may be required, among these:

Shower chair and/or wheelchair

Nebulizer and/or oxygen equipment

Hearing aids and/or eyeglasses

Prosthetics or wound care supplies

If you have a child with special health care needs:

- Know about the child's disability.
- Schedule and attend all medical visits.
- See that the child uses medications and assistive equipment as prescribed by the physician.

Learn more at:

1. Birth Defects Surveillance and Prevention System:
787-765-2929 ext. 4571, 4591, 4574, 4698
2. Children with Special Medical Needs Section (SNNME):
787-765-2929 ext. 4587
3. APNI – Support for parents with children with disabilities: 787-763-4665

Social and Emotional

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

Medical Advice Line:

1-844-347-7801

TTY/TDD 1-844-347-7804

APS Health: 787-641-9133

References:

<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/special-needs.html>
<https://www.salud.pr.gov/CMS/319>
<https://childcare.gov/es/educaci%C3%B3n-al-consumidor/servicios-para-ni%C3%B1os-con-discapacidades>

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