Nutritional Support for Children in Educational Environments

Shirley Huang, MD
Parent and Pediatrician
Financial Disclosures

* None
Objectives

* Define the partnership and the needs
* Understand existing laws that apply to school settings for children dependent on nutrition support
* Learn how to effectively advocate for your child
Creating a Partnership

* Ongoing and shared
  * Educational team, medical team, student, parents and caregivers

* Nutritional support
  * Provision of nutrients to treat or prevent malnutrition
    * Enterally or parentally, combination (PO, EN, PN)
  * Medical device
Federal Laws

* American with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990)
  * Civil rights law prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life
  * Ensures that all children with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE)
  * Special education law applicable to creation of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
* Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  * 1st disability civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability
  * Applicable to 504 Plan
Other Laws

* State Laws
* School District Differences
Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

* Developed for each public school child eligible for special education
* Educational disability code (13 including Other Health Impairment)
* Details how instruction is adapted to child’s unique needs that impacts how the child is able to make meaningful educational progress
* Extensive procedural safeguards and due process
504 Plans

* Student must have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
* Used to detail classroom and school accommodations needed to attend school safely in the general curriculum
  * Accommodation does not alter content nor provides specially designed curriculum, but makes education more accessible
  * Does not require written goals and evidence of growth
  * Parental approval and involvement not required
Things to Consider

* Educational impact of medical needs
  * Minimize time away from classroom learning
    * Frequency of absences for clinic visits and hospital stays
    * Time outside of the classroom for care
  * Location to receive care and proper storage
  * Ongoing monitoring
  * Special attention for PE, recess, extracurriculars
  * Emotional and social support (normalcy, bullying)
  * Education of peers and staff
    * Individualized: Medical needs vs. Developmental needs
Accommodations

* Academic
* Environmental
* Assistance
* Health monitoring
* Special allowances
* Outreach, education, notification
Individual Health Plan

- Formal written agreement (not legally binding)
  - Provides information and authorization
  - Addresses concerns
  - Clarifies roles and responsibilities
  - Establishes basis for ongoing teamwork, collaboration, and evaluation
- Emergency care plan
School Educational Needs

* Providing health information documenting disability to receive accommodations
* Physician orders
* Nurse vs. delegation
* Hand hygiene, position for feeding, use of technology, reasons to discontinue feeds
* Addressing complications and emergency kits
Advocacy

- Partner, educate, and problem solve together
- Yearly meeting
- Team building
  - Good communication without emotion and with negotiation
  - Respect and trust
  - Documentation
Helpful Resources

* Resources for the Provision of Nutrition Support to Children in Educational Environments
  http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0884533617718471

* OLEY
* Home care company toolkits
* American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
* The National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
  * Recommend 1:125 ratio staffing in student population with complex healthcare needs and 1:1 attention for students who require daily and continuous professional services