

Epilepsy

When your child is diagnosed with epilepsy, education is likely to be one of your first concerns. Many children, especially once their epilepsy is controlled by medicine, are unlikely to need any extra support. But some children will continue to have seizures and need medical or other support. Making sure the school knows about your child's epilepsy will give them the best chance of getting the learning, social and health support they need.

How YOU can help your child:

Telling staff at school about your child's epilepsy means they will know what to do if a seizure happens. It is important that the staff are aware of what is best for your child, so they don't assume that epilepsy affects everyone in the same way.

Seizures at night can disrupt sleep patterns and affect memory for some time afterwards. Anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) can also cause side effects that include tiredness and problems with memory or concentration.

If you feel that your child needs support at school you can talk to their teachers. Sometimes a teacher may approach you if they notice areas where your child needs extra help.

If your child needs extra help, you, or your child's school, can ask the local authority for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment. This assessment includes talking to you and your child about what support you think your child needs. It will also include asking for information and views from people who work with your child, such as teachers, doctors or educational psychologists. This may produce an EHC plan, a document that brings together your child's education, health and social care needs. Your child must have special educational needs to be eligible for a plan.

If you are aware of any triggers for seizures (e.g. photosensitivity) the school would expect to be informed so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

How TCS will help your child:

TCS has considerable experience with this condition. The Learning Support Assistants and key teaching staff have been extensively trained by medical professionals on how to support a student with epilepsy inside and outside the classroom, and in the administration of Buccal Midazolam. TCS currently has two members of staff who have extensive, personal experience with caring for a child with epilepsy. TCS will make appropriate alterations within school to support those with epilepsy. This may include:

- Rest breaks if the student feels it necessary and for after seizures in a designated area.
- The creation of a reduced timetable
- Work will be sent home during periods of absence
- A flexible approach to PE which can be the hardest subject for the student to return to.

Safety is important for all children, especially during practical activities and lessons, such as science or PE. Epilepsy does not need to stop a child from doing an activity, as long as they are safe. Each student who has epilepsy will have an LSA with them if their condition is severe enough to warrant this.

TCS has a member of staff well versed in the administration of the emergency medication with a dedicated phone in case of seizures. The number has been circulated to all staff.