

EDUCATIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS



www.puentesenlinea.com

Children with special health care needs may be provided with educational accommodations to provide supports for school absences, physical effects, cognitive effects, behavioral effects, and social effects.

School absences. Children with special health care needs may experience frequent absences of varying lengths. Parents may request:

- A weekly homework buddy to collect extra copies of handouts for each subject.
- A daily/weekly drop off/pick up system for assignments with teachers. This system could be electronic if proper equipment is available to the child's family.
- The teacher focus on quality over quantity in homework assignments and to waive some homework assignments if he or she believes your child has mastered a subject. Encourage parents to ask teachers to provide instructions and samples of the work your child should complete.

Physical effects. Children with special health care needs may experience headaches or reduced fine motor skills affecting the child's ability to physically participate in school activities. Parents may request:

- Modified homework if their child experiences fatigue, problems writing or completing activities.
- Preferential class seating if their child's needs include visual problems, attention deficits, or bladder/bowel problems. Such seating could be at the front, side, or back to allow easiest exit or proximity to the teacher.

Cognitive effects. Children with special health care needs may experience mental fatigue or difficulty concentrating at the end of the day affecting the child's ability to process information and learn. Parents may request:

- Permission for frequent breaks.
- Teachers break long activities into smaller, specific tasks.
- If their child has difficulty maintaining his or her concentration and staying focused during lessons, a note taker or use of a voice recorder.

Behavioral effects. Children may experience hyperactivity or mood swings affecting the child's behavior in the classroom. Parents may request:

- The teacher provides nonverbal cues to redirect their child to activities, such as providing the child with a work checklist or walking by and touching his or her desk. This prevents the teacher from isolating their child by calling him or her out in front of peers.
- Discussions with school personnel on how to manage inappropriate classroom behavior if it occurs. Parents should be aware if their child with special health care needs would prefer to receive the same consequences as other peers instead of receiving special treatment, which may single him or her out.

Social effects. Children with special health care needs may experience underdeveloped social skills or isolation affecting the child's ability to make friends and navigate social situations. Parents may request:

- To work closely with their child's teacher and perhaps other parents.
- Parents may also want to consider working with their child to practice how to talk about their special health care need with other children.