

The Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN), Access Assistant Program (AAP) provides trained staff to support students with complex health care needs and/or a disability to enable participation in government or non-government preschool or school.

In order for your child to receive the health support required, AAP must receive a completed referral from the Principal/Director and the parent/guardian.

To make a referral to AAP, discuss your child's health needs with the preschool/school Principal/Director. In consultation with you a referral form will be completed and sent to WCHN Disability Services.

If your child moves to a different preschool or school you will need to complete a new referral.

If your child is eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), you will need to complete the relevant NDIS details on the referral form.

A registered nurse from the RN Delegation of Care Program will then contact you to make a time to meet with you and your child to complete a health assessment. The nurse will develop a health plan for your child and will train the staff who will be supporting your child's health needs. The AAP manager and the registered nurse will have ongoing contact with the preschool or school to arrange site visits and any required staff training. You will be kept informed.

Importance of the Health Plan

The registered nurse will work with you and other health professionals to complete your child's health plan. The health plan is an important document used by staff at the preschool/school providing care for your child. The level of support your child receives depends on their health needs and may need to be reviewed by the registered nurse if your child's health changes

It is essential to ensure:

1. The health plan accompanies your child to preschool or school.
2. The registered nurse is informed of any hospital admissions or changes to your child's health status, so the health plan can be updated.
3. The health plan is reviewed annually and updated as required by the registered nurse.

Transport

The Department for Education and Child Development can arrange transport, if your child is eligible. Ask your school Principal for more information.

If your child has been assessed to require one to one support, a health support worker may travel with your child to and from preschool/school.

To keep our students as safe as possible, the maximum travel time for this type of support is 30 minutes or 15 kilometres each way to and from school.

Equipment and health supplies

To support your child at school your child's equipment and health supplies need to be taken to school. It may be helpful to create a daily checklist of what to pack for your child, for example:

- > health plan
- > adequate enteral nutrition for the day
- > gastrostomy equipment including pump and tubing plastic container with clean personal line and syringes
- > medication
- > oxygen equipment suction machine and equipment (if required)
- > any other equipment as indicated in the health plan

All items must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

If you have forgotten to pack something you will be contacted by the staff to arrange for the item to be brought in to preschool/school as soon as possible.

Camps and excursions

Our program aims to support your child's health needs so they can participate in camps and excursions organised by the preschool/school. The registered nurse will complete an assessment of the venue where activities are to be held. Every endeavour is made to provide overnight support at camps. You may be required to provide additional equipment for camps and excursions.

If your child is unwell or has an appointment

If your child is unable to attend preschool/school, it is important you contact the AAP Manager promptly to let them know and if possible, the estimated length of absence.

If your child becomes unwell at preschool/school, the staff will contact you to collect your child. In an emergency the school will call an ambulance and contact you once first aid has been provided

Communication

The preschool/school will provide you with a school diary or communication book. This diary/book is for you and staff to communication with each other.

Staff

Occasionally it may not be possible to provide support for your child due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be notified if this is the case.

For more information

Referral Coordinator

**Access Assistant Program
Disability Services
PO Box 2068
Hilton Plaza
HILTON SA 5033
Telephone: (08) 8159 9400**

www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/other/allied/disability/

Non-English speaking: for information in languages other than English, call the interpreting and Translating Centre and ask them to call The Department of Health. This service is available at no cost to you, contact (08) 8226 1990.



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Providing Health Support
in preschool/school

Information for parents
and guardians