

You are a teacher of students with exceptional needs. The parents of one of your students share that their child was recently diagnosed with a medical condition and has started taking a medication prescribed by the child's doctor. The parents wonder how the medical condition and medication may affect their child in the educational environment. You would like to take a collaborative approach to address this situation. Using your knowledge of professional collaboration, prepare a response in which you:

- Draw on your experience to briefly describe the hypothetical student (e.g., age/grade level/developmental level, type of exceptionality, strengths/needs).
- Identify **two** individuals with whom you would collaborate to address this situation and explain why you would choose **each** of these individuals.
- Discuss in detail **two** steps you would take in collaborating with the individuals you have identified to address this situation.
- Explain how you would evaluate the effectiveness of this collaboration.

The student is a 7 year old first grader that currently receives services in the Exceptional Children's program under the category of an Other Health Impairment. She has low cognitive abilities, low educational achievement scores, receives occupational therapy and speech therapy. The student has diagnosed ADHD, has juvenile arthritis, and has recently had a seizure. The student is well behaved, she follows school rules, and she has recently accomplished/met her IEP goals. She is socially immature in comparison with her peers, poor focus, and can only follow one step directives. With medical treatment, the child has been diagnosed with the medical condition of Epilepsy. Medical staff have prescribed medication to help control seizures at school as well as an emergency medication to be kept at school. With the new medical condition and medication parents are concerned about the educational environment.

Two individuals I would choose to collaborate with at school will be the school nurse and the general education teacher. The reason why I would choose the school nurse is because of her knowledge of the medical condition, knowledge of medication, she serves on our school crisis team if there were to be a medical emergency, and she would be able to gather appropriate medical documentation from providers that we would need at school in the student's records. I would choose to collaborate with the general education teacher because this is who the student spends the majority of her school day with. She is only pulled for small group two times a day for instruction, so the teacher is with the majority of the day would need to be familiar with her medical condition, because she would notice first if the student was having a negative response to the medication being administered and would need to know how to access emergency medications if needed.

Steps for collaboration

- I would first make sure the school nurse had access to staff training for the medical condition of the student. We would schedule a time for the school nurse to train myself and the general education teacher on how to administer emergency medications and seizure training.

-My second step would be to schedule an IEP meeting which would include the parents, administration, myself, and the school nurse. During the IEP I would make sure to address medical conditions in the IEP and give accommodations of preferential seating to the teacher and being closely monitored throughout transitions during the school .

To evaluate the effectiveness of the collaboration we would have a medical log to document any situations where emergency medication needed to be administered as well as any concerns that were observed. The log would include parent contact made as well. I would also hold annual reviews on the IEP to make changes as needed as provided from input from the parent, teacher, and nurse as well as send home progress monitoring notes of observations since the student has begun her medication.