

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Child's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Gender _____

Parent's Name _____

Phone (day) (____) _____

Parent's Name _____

Phone (day) (____) _____

Alternate _____

Phone (____) _____

Home Address _____

_____ Home Phone (____) _____

Physician _____

Phone (____) _____

Types of Seizures _____

Seizure Frequency _____

First Aid _____

Medications _____

Side Effects _____

Medication Time & Dose _____

Allergies _____

Limitations (specified by physician) _____

Special Instructions _____



Information about Epilepsy

Give this information sheet to your child's caregivers including day care staff, teachers, bus drivers, coaches, babysitters and camp counsellors. It will provide them with information that is vital for your child's safety.

Looking after any child is a big responsibility. However, there are some special considerations for children who have epilepsy. Read over the following information carefully and ask the child's parents to clarify anything that you don't understand.

Epilepsy is a seizure disorder resulting from sudden bursts of electrical energy in the brain. These electrical discharges produce seizures which vary from one person to another in frequency and in form. Epilepsy is not a disease, it is a disorder, and it is not contagious. Epilepsy is actually very common. 1 to 2% of all people have ongoing seizures which require medical attention. In most cases, seizures can be controlled with drug therapy.

It can be frightening to see a tonic-clonic seizure, where the person loses consciousness, falls to the floor, becomes rigid and then convulses. But this is only one type of seizure. There are many different types of seizures including absence seizures in which the person appears to be daydreaming, simple partial seizures and complex partial seizures in which the person loses control over part of their body and demonstrates inappropriate behaviour. Regardless of the seizure type, be sure to stay with the child during the seizure, and reassure the child and others who are present that the child is okay. Remember to treat the child with epilepsy the way you would any other child. After all, the child with epilepsy is like any other child except for the brief time during which they are experiencing a seizure.

Frequently Asked Questions about Epilepsy

Can a person swallow their tongue during a seizure?

No, this is physically impossible since the tongue is attached to the bottom of the mouth. Do not insert anything in the person's mouth during a seizure.

Can children "outgrow" epilepsy?

Approximately 30-40% of all children who develop epilepsy before the age of 16 years will outgrow their epilepsy before adulthood. Epilepsy is more likely to disappear on its own (spontaneous remission) in children than in adults.

Can epilepsy be cured?

There is no cure for epilepsy. However, seizures can be controlled using medication in approximately 60-80% of cases.

Does epilepsy cause brain damage?

No, epilepsy causes no effect on intelligence, creativity or ability.

Is epilepsy contagious?

No. You cannot "catch" epilepsy.