



Information for parents of affected children

School Medical Service Learning together — chronic illness and school



Learning together — chronic illness and school

Some 10 - 20% of school-age children and adolescents suffer from a health impairment or chronic illness. Is your child one of them?

Schools are committed to providing your child with appropriate support in their everyday school activities. The School Medical Service of the City of Zurich supports schools and affected families.

Optimal support at school

Every child is unique and it is this uniqueness that makes schools colourful and diverse. Schools have trained professionals to assist children with a wide range of abilities and needs, including specific medical needs, such as those arising from a chronic illness.

Their objective is to ensure that your child is able to participate in everyday school activities to the fullest possible degree.

Your child should feel safe and happy at school, in the playground, in after-school care, in swimming and sports lessons, on school trips and field trips.

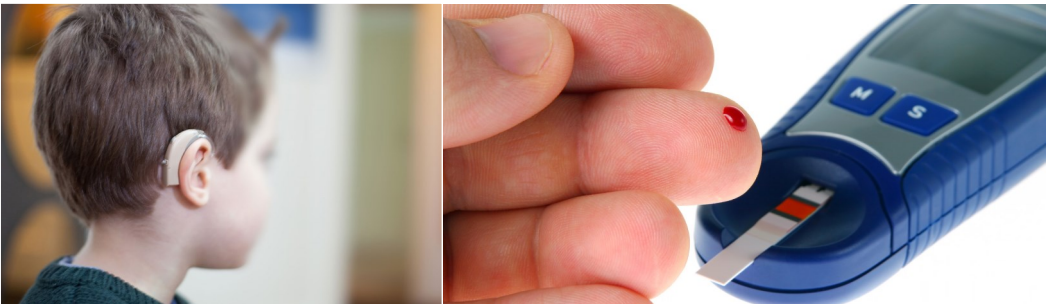
To ensure that the school is able to fulfil its duty of supervision and care, it is important that you as parents inform the

class teacher or carer about your child's medical needs. They need to know what they need to do and who is responsible for what, particularly in the event of an emergency.

Competent support

As parents, you teach your child the skills they need to handle their illness. The more independent your child is, the greater the feeling of security they will enjoy.

Teachers, carers and the school's management will support your child through appropriate measures, agreed in consultation with you.





How this works in practice

The parents inform either the responsible teacher and carer, the district school authority or the School Medical Service of their child's specific medical needs.

A case manager is appointed to liaise with the families. Depending on the amount of support required, this task is performed by the head of the school, a teacher or the head of care. The case manager coordinates the necessary measures.

Individual measures such as emergency plans, advice or employee training are discussed and planned in consultation with the parents, with the objective of ensuring that the child is able to handle everyday school activities as independently as possible.

School Medical Service – the interface between schools, families and the medical profession

The School Medical Service combines medical expertise and knowledge about school-specific matters. It knows the schools, their specialist departments and their communication channels and collaborates closely with external physicians, offering educational support to children with chronic illnesses. For example, the options include training courses and (anonymous) consultations with school staff, participation in discussions or support with the planning and implementing of measures.

Any discussions about your child's needs will only take place with your consent. Employees of the School Medical Service are obligated to maintain strict confidentiality.

Get in touch with them!

- ▶ **Please inform the class teacher and the care about any specific medical needs that your child has.**
- ▶ **Is your child not attending kindergarten yet? Does the illness any necessitate any specific actions, such as administering medicines or structural adjustments, or is it likely to entail any medical emergencies? If so, please get in contact with the district school authority or the School Medical Service. If the impact on everyday school activities is less severe in nature, please inform the class teacher and carer when your child starts school.**
- ▶ **If you have any further questions, please contact: ssd-sad-zaeme-unterwegs@zuerich.ch / 044 413 88 95**

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Wherever possible, children and adolescents with special medical needs should be able to go to school and enjoy school events without restriction, in exactly the same way as every other student.

Schools are committed to providing appropriate support for these children and adolescents in their everyday school activities. The City of Zurich's School Medical Service advises and supports schools and affected families to ensure that this is achieved.

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