

Eating and Feeding Evaluation: Children with Special Needs

PART A		
Child's Name	Age	
Name of Facility		
Does the child have a disability ? If Yes, describe the major life activities affected by the disability.	Yes	No
Does the child have special nutritional or feeding needs? If Yes, complete Part B of this form and have it signed by a licensed physician .	Yes	No
If the child is not disabled , does the child have special nutritional or feeding needs? If Yes, complete Part B of this form and have it signed by a recognized medical authority .	Yes	No
If the child does not require special meals, the parent can sign at the bottom and return the form to the provider.		
PART B		
List any dietary restrictions or special diet.		
List any allergies or food intolerances to avoid.		
List foods to be substituted.		
List foods that need the following change in texture. If all foods need to be prepared in this manner, indicate "All." Cut up or chopped into bite size pieces: Finely ground: Pureed:		
List any special equipment or utensils that are needed.		
Indicate any other comments about the child's eating or feeding patterns.		
Parent's Signature	Date:	
Parent's Printed Name and Phone Number		
Physician or Medical Authority's Signature	Date:	
Physician or Medical Authority's Printed Name and Phone Number		

Under Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, and the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* of 1990, a "person with a disability" means any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. The term "physical or mental impairment" includes many diseases and conditions, a few of which may be:

- orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments;
- cerebral palsy;
- epilepsy;
- muscular dystrophy;
- multiple sclerosis;
- cancer;
- heart disease;
- metabolic diseases, such as diabetes or phenylketonuria (PKU);
- food anaphylaxis (severe food allergy);
- mental retardation;
- emotional illness;
- drug addiction and alcoholism;
- specific learning disabilities;
- HIV disease; and
- tuberculosis.

Major life activities covered by this definition include caring for one's self, eating, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

The term child with a "disability" under Part B of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) means a child evaluated in accordance with IDEA as having one or more of the recognized thirteen disability categories and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services. The disabilities include:

- autism;
- deaf-blindness;
- deafness or other hearing impairments;
- mental retardation;
- orthopedic impairments;
- other health impairments due to chronic or acute health problems, such as asthma, diabetes, nephritis, sickle cell anemia, a heart condition, epilepsy, rheumatic fever, hemophilia, leukemia, lead poisoning, tuberculosis;
- emotional disturbance;
- specific learning disabilities;
- speech or language impairment;
- traumatic brain injury; and
- visual impairment; including blindness which adversely affects a child's educational performance, and
- multiple disabilities.

Attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder may fall under one of the thirteen categories. Classification depends upon the particular characteristics associated with the disorder and how the condition manifests itself in the student, which will determine the category.

In Cases of Food Allergy

Generally, children with food allergies or intolerances do not have a disability as defined under either Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or Part B of IDEA, and the facility may, but is not required to, provide food substitutions for them.

However, when in the licensed physician's assessment, food allergies may result in severe, life-threatening (anaphylactic) reactions, the child's condition would meet the definition of "disability," and the substitutions prescribed by the licensed physician must be provided by the center.