

EPILEPSY CHECKLIST

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Good communication between teacher and parents and, via the parents, with the child's doctor is vital for the proper treatment and care of the child with epilepsy.

The teacher can be a valuable aid in the diagnosis of the type of epilepsy a child may have by supplying the doctor with an accurate description of the features of the seizure.

Ideally, the teacher should meet with the parents at the beginning of the school year in order to check that the child's records are updated.

Arrangements should be made with parents in advance regarding the procedure to be followed if a child should have a seizure at school. Parents should, of course, always be notified that a seizure has occurred but it may not always be necessary to send a child home. If prolonged rest is required then, obviously, home is the best place for the child to be, but some children will be perfectly able to return to their normal school activities after a short supervised recovery period, possibly in the staff room or at the back of the classroom.

To determine the appropriate supports that need to be put in place for a child with epilepsy, teachers need to learn as much as possible about the child's particular type of epilepsy and treatment. The accompanying checklist is designed to facilitate discussion between parents and teachers to establish such support needs.

Emergency Care

As outlined in the leaflet "Seizures in School", there may be some children who will require the administration of medication as part of their seizure aftercare. The following are the guidelines on the Administration of Medication provided by the Irish National Teachers' Organisation.

- A. The parent(s) of the pupil concerned should write to the Board of Management requesting the Board to authorise a member of the teaching staff to administer the medication.
- B. The request should also contain written instructions of the procedure to be followed in administering the medication.
- C. The Board of Management having considered the matter may authorise a teacher to administer medication to a pupil. If the teacher is so authorised she/he should be properly instructed by the Board of Management.
- D. A teacher should not administer medication without the specific authorisation of the Board.
- E. In administering medication to pupils, teachers should exercise the standard of care of a reasonable and prudent parent.
- F. The Board of management should inform the school's insurers accordingly.
- G. The Board of Management should seek an indemnity form from the parent(s) in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of the medication.

EPILEPSY CHECKLIST - THINGS THE TEACHER SHOULD KNOW

Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Name of Family Doctor: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Other details: (e.g. Hospital attending)

What type of epilepsy does the child have?

Are there any special conditions or events known to trigger the seizures?

How often does the child take medication and is it necessary to take it in school and at any specific times?

What happens when the child has a seizure?

How long does the seizure usually last?

Does he or she have a warning (aura)?

What kind of first aid, if any, is required?

Does the child need to rest after a seizure and for how long?

Who is to be responsible for keeping and administering medication?

Does the medication have any side effects?

Has the doctor/neurologist requested any limitations on school activities?

Does the child have any other conditions apart from epilepsy?

Does the child have an understanding of his/her epilepsy and its treatment?

Does he or she have any emotional problems or difficulties?

Does your child have any sensitivity to strobe lighting?
