

Eating and Feeding Evaluation: Children with Special Needs

Part A	
Child's Name:	Child's Age:
Child Care Facility Name:	
Does the child have a disability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, describe the major life activities affected by the disability.	
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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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 restriction 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: <input type="checkbox"/> ALL
List any special equipment or utensils that are needed.
Indicate any other comments about the child's eating or feeding patterns.

PART C

Physician or Medical Authority's Signature:	Date:
Physician or Medical Authority's Printed Name and Phone:	
Parent's Signature:	Date:
Parent's Printed Name and Phone Number:	

DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY AND OF OTHER SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS
Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act

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	Metabolic diseases, such as diabetes or phenylketonuria (PKU)
Cerebral palsy	Heart disease
Epilepsy	Food anaphylaxis (severe food allergy)
Muscular dystrophy	Mental retardation
Multiple sclerosis	Emotional illness
Cancer	Drug addiction and alcoholism
Specific learning disabilities	HIV disease
Tuberculosis	Impairment with major bodily functions including functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, and reproductive functions

Please refer to the Acts noted above for a more detailed explanation. Major life activities covered by this definition include caring for one’s self, eating, performing manual tasks, sleeping, standing, walking, lifting, bending, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, 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. IDEA recognizes thirteen disability categories which establish a child’s need for special education and related services. These disabilities include:

Autism	Deaf-blindness
Deafness or other hearing impairments	Mental Retardation
Orthopedic impairments	Emotional disturbance
Specific learning disabilities	Speech or language impairment
Traumatic brain injury	Multiple disabilities
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	Visual impairment; including blindness, which adversely affects a child’s educational performance

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 determines 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 school food service may, but is not required to, make food substitution 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 made.