

Children who are not independent with their diabetes management will require support from education staff at times during the school day/nursery session. The Paediatric Diabetes Specialists Nurses will visit schools and nurseries to provide the necessary training to keep your child safe.

Diabetes Management is becoming more complex with the widespread use of basal bolus therapy, insulin pumps and glucose monitoring systems. The diabetes nurses will provide training on the basics of diabetes management to keep children safe and this will include blood sugar testing, recognising and treating hypos. Depending on your child's regimen, training may also include administering or supervising insulin injections or boluses via an insulin pump, responding to low alerts for NHS funded continuous glucose monitors and advice given on considering 'trend' arrows when deciding whether a snack is needed before physical activity for NHS funded Freestyle Libre.

Staff working in schools and nurseries are expected to follow written health care plans created by the diabetes team and record any medication they provide (Scottish Gov, 2017) and this also provides education colleagues with reassurance and protection from liability.

Schools and nurseries are primarily a place where children go to learn, socialise, make friends and have fun and so it is important for their growth and development that they can participate in all aspects of the school/nursery day, in the same way as their peers. The written plan will therefore aim to minimise the times your child is interrupted in their learning and playing opportunities. Recognising and management of hypoglycaemia is a situation that requires an immediate response, but the aim is that other interventions will be limited to the end of class/beginning of breaks or lunch where possible.

We are aware that as parents and carers you will already be, or will become experts in your own child's diabetes management very quickly and will regularly make complex decisions based on your knowledge of your child, your previous experience and interpreting glucose data. Staff in nurseries, schools and after school clubs are fully committed to supporting your child, but will never have the level of knowledge, skill and expertise in diabetes that you do and therefore the school plans and training for staff are tailored accordingly.



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Reference

Scottish Government (2017) *Supporting children and young people with healthcare needs in schools: guidance* [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-children-young-people-healthcare-needs-schools/> [Accessed 11 February 2020]