

Education Liaison Services



All children have the right to attend school and reach their full potential, but those with chronic illness often have difficulty accessing education. There are resources available to address the challenges of medically fragile children, including UCSF's Educational Liaison Program. Recognizing that chronic illness shouldn't interrupt a child's education, the Educational Liaison Program provides critical services to patients and families served by UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals.

What is an Educational Liaison?

If you are unsure about how to obtain educational services from the local school or district, a Liaison can provide a variety of services, whether it is helping you to navigate the special education process, facilitating communication between you and your child's school, or making sure you understand the rights guaranteed your child under federal law.

Serving children from age three through college, our Liaison offers educational consulting services throughout the academic year and during the summer. The Liaison is a California credentialed Educational Specialist who is an integral part of the Pediatric Epilepsy Center of Excellence.

Who needs Liaison Services?

The Epilepsy Educational Liaison is available to help families with school-age children who have been adversely affected by epilepsy in a way that impacts their education. The goal of the Liaison is to provide families with the tools to ensure that their children's educational experience is a positive one.

Some educational needs may be complex and beyond the scope of services the Educational Liaison can provide. In those circumstances you will be provided with advice, and when possible, contact information for other resources for additional support.

Services We Offer

During an initial consultation, the Liaison will:

- Listen to your questions and concerns.
- Assess for school needs.
- Provide you with information about the educational rights of your child.

The Epilepsy Educational Liaison can provide the following services:

- Inform parents of their children's educational rights and provide them assistance with navigating the school system.
- Advocate for educational screening assessments to determine appropriate school services to help these children transition back to school.
- Make recommendations for school interventions.
- Assist families preparing for SST, 504 Plan and IEP meetings.
- Coordinate home and hospital school instruction.
- Communicate with families and school personnel to help them understand the short- and long-term effects that chronic illnesses have on the learning abilities of children.
- Provide reference material for further information.

The Liaison will then work with you and your child's school to determine eligibility for services. Once appropriate services have been identified, the Liaison will continue to work with your family to ensure these services are put into place.