

Childcare

Childcare for children with bleeding disorders

Type of Care

It is important to consider the types of care available in your area and which kind better fits your needs. Do you want someone to come to your home? Do you want someone located near where you work? How much can you afford to pay?

- In-home care can be provided by an individual, family member, or a parent.
- Care can be at a licensed childcare home that is monitor by the state. The number of children they can provide care for is limited.
- Care can be provided in a family home where the parent cares for other children in addition to her own.
- Center based childcare is group care provided by a paid and trained staff.

No matter what your choice is, an understanding of Hemophilia is necessary and what to do in an emergency situation must be outlined and discussed. Numbers to the local HTC should be readily available.

Care by a Parent

Parents that have a flexible work schedule may be able to stay home and/or take turns. This not only saves money but helps provide individual attention to the child. This may, however, limit the child's interaction with his/her peers.

Care by a Third Party

Neighbors, relatives and friends are often you best recourses for in-home care. You may also consider hiring a nanny. Also, check with your local Hemophilia Chapter, they may be aware local youth programs and may be able to recommend someone from the community.

Childcare Cooperative

Some organized groups of parents, exchange childcare. Usually without pay. The National Association of Child Care Resources and referral agencies (NACCRRRA) can help you locate these programs.



Childcare Center

These centers are usually for children with working parents. They are open from early in the morning to early evening.. They are often organized by churches, school districts or child development groups and often include preschool. They are licensed and staff is based on the number of children, their ages and the nature of the programs provided.

Choosing a center for your childcare

Remember that your child has special needs but also has the same likes and dislikes as other children. Get as much information as possible about the center. Observe the atmosphere and the general attitude of the staff and the children. Inquire about their qualification for their staff and their reputation in the community before you make a decision.

When choosing a care center for a child with a bleeding disorder, consider the following:

- Do staff members have education and/or experience in caring for children with a bleeding disorder?
- If not, will they meet with you to learn about your child's condition?
- Is there, or can a plan be put in place for a medical emergency.
- Can factor be kept in the refrigerator at the facility for factor treatment there?
- Provide information about your child's disorder. Have open communication.
- Educate the staff on what you consider an emergency and when you want to be notified.
- Let the staff know about any injury that may require special attention or restricted activity.
- Be sure the staff knows not to give any medication without your permission.
- Make sure they understand that bruises are common to children with bleeding disorders but you would like them to maintain a record of incidents.
- Make sure emergency information is always kept up to date.

Make arrangements for you and your child to spend time with the prospective care givers so you can get a feel for the staff and center and start building relationships and trust. Your biggest concern is "will my child be safe and happy."



Finding the very best childcare

Finding the best childcare can be challenging for any Parent. You need to choose the right kind of care and there is always the uneasy feeling of leaving your child with someone else. Then because your child has special needs, it becomes even more difficult. Then, can you afford it.

Children with bleeding disorders have special needs and need specialized attention. Educating your childcare provider should be first on your agenda. The more information you share with them, the better. Make sure the lines of communications are always left open. You want to make sure the care center is a safe, informed and happy place for your child to be.

