



KIDS CONNECT

Fact Sheet

What is KIDS CONNECT?

KIDS CONNECT is a program that provides specialized services at DCYF licensed childcare centers that can help children with special needs participate, play, and learn along with their typically-developing peers. Licensed childcare centers and after-school care programs contract with the State to provide this service. KIDS CONNECT provides an additional staff member in the classroom to support the child with special health care needs. For some children, nursing care is available for up to one hour per day.

Who is eligible for this service?

Children or youth who are eligible for Medicaid and who have special needs may benefit from this service. A child or youth who has a chronic condition (cognitive, developmental, medical, or psychiatric) that is moderate to severe may qualify for this service. Eligibility includes children from infancy (6 weeks) up to age 16. Children who require one-on-one support are not eligible for this program.

Benefits of KIDS CONNECT

Through participation, the child is able to maintain or improve communication and social skills, behavioral and/or cognitive development in their childcare or after school setting,

How much does it cost?

The family pays for the cost of child care or after-school care. Medicaid reimburses the child care agency for only the therapeutic services and/or staff time to provide the services. There is no cost to the family for the therapeutic services provided at the child care center or after school facility.

How to Access

Families interested in KIDS CONNECT should contact their childcare center or a Cedar Family Center for information.

For more information, please refer to the *RI Medicaid Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs* guide for a list of participating KIDS CONNECT providers.

<http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/ConsumerInformation/Healthcare/PeoplewithSpecialNeedsandDisabilities/Children.aspx>