

Incorporating School

Supporting the school child with a stoma

Before your child starts school or returns to school following stoma surgery, your Stoma Care Nurse can help by liaising with the school nurse.

To identify any needs required in school, a meeting could be arranged with all those concerned. If possible, the school should be given written, as well as verbal information and a written care plan developed with the School Nurse or children's Community Nurse.

The care plan could include the following practical considerations:

- ▶ Your child's ability to cope with their stoma care
- ▶ Providing clothing in school
- ▶ Stoma care equipment
- ▶ Toilet facilities/mirror/privacy
- ▶ Disposal of appliances/universal precautions
- ▶ Baseline status of stoma (e.g. normal appearance, stool consistency etc.)
- ▶ Provision for gloves/aprons (local agreement)

With careful planning, good liaison and communication between all concerned, the child's entry into school should run smoothly.



General information sheet

Children with stomas sample letter for school

Dear (teacher),

_____ has a condition that requires a colostomy/ileostomy/urostomy. This is an opening on the surface of the abdomen from the large/small intestine, which allows the body to eliminate faeces/urine because _____ is unable to do so normally.

The opening or stoma is covered by a bag that serves as a container for waste until it can be emptied. The child/student or helper empties or changes the pouch as necessary.

Unless _____ has a condition that otherwise interferes with his or her participation in physical education or other activities, there is no reason why he or she cannot participate fully. It is very difficult for a stoma to be injured. It can be bumped, leaned on, or slept on without problems. The bag is firmly attached and should not come off under normal circumstances.

_____ should be allowed easy access to toilet/changing facilities.

For more information regarding stomas please contact _____.

