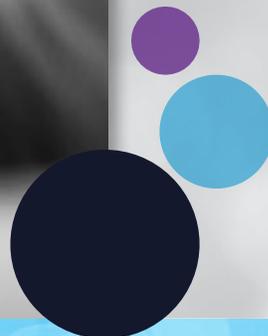




Child
Neurology
FOUNDATION
Creating a Community of Support



A RESPITE CARE NOTEBOOK

WITH CHARITABLE SUPPORT FROM



WHAT FAMILIES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT RESPITE CARE

We're sure you'd agree that caring for our children requires lots of love and lots of patience. If you have a child with special needs, that care can also be challenging, at times. Respite care providers can help you. Families who have used respite care tell us that respite helps them **“create a better balance”** in their lives. Respite care helps parents take time for themselves, to be with their partner or spouse, or with their other children. Some parents pursue their own interests, with support from respite care. In a small survey of 17 families, one parent reported returning to work, and another parent said she went back to school—thanks to respite care.

Respite care can also be good for your child. **“Respite caregivers have helped my son participate in fun activities,”** said one family. Respite care allowed another child to attend a weekend camp. Respite care can encourage friendships, build trust, and expand social skills. Respite care “is just as useful to our son as it is to us,” reports a parent. “We get a chance to have a break and our son has a chance to meet new people and form other relationships outside his own family. Even though he is non-verbal and has severe and profound intellectual impairment, it is very obvious to us that he enjoys his time in respite care.”

“Respite care expanded our circle of caring adults capable of providing high quality care for our son,” says one mother. In case of an emergency, it can be critical to have someone to call whom you trust to care for your child. If you can't be available, respite care can step in.

The Child Neurology Foundation (CNF) created this notebook for families who now use respite care services, and families who are thinking about respite care services. It is a tool to help guide the respite care provider in caring for your child. Some things to keep in mind:

Respite care can be used for a few hours, several days or even longer.

You decide how to use respite, depending on your family's needs, available services, and coverage/costs.

The forms in this notebook bring information about your child's needs—and wants—into one place.

You fill out the forms that apply to your child's needs and situation. Skip any questions or pages that don't apply.

This notebook is designed with a 2–3-day respite in mind. You may find that some of the information we ask for isn't needed for shorter visits. For a longer visit, you may need to include more information, like how to restock the supplies, or how your child will be taken to school or therapy. Additional forms are provided, starting on page 29, with items to think about as you prepare for longer respite care visits.

You might find that the notebook also helps remind other family caregivers of changes in medication or routine. As you update forms, you might keep the old ones, and build a record of your child's care, growth, and use of respite services.

We want this notebook to be useful for you, your child, and other families with special needs. As you become familiar with using respite services, we hope you will share your experiences with other families. If you need more information, or have questions or comments, email us at info@childneurologyfoundation.org.

Above all, we know you may feel nervous letting someone else come into your home and care for your child. But please remember that caretakers need care too! As one family member told us, **“Primary caregivers often don't realize just how stretch[ed] and stressed they are until they get a real break and can look back.”** We hope this notebook will help you create a complete plan for your respite care provider so that your mind can be at ease while you are away from your child.

Sincerely,
The Child Neurology Foundation

“Ask for help.
Not because you are weak. But because you want to remain strong.”

–Les Brown

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SOURCES

THE FOLLOWING SOURCES PROVIDED HELPFUL FRAMING AND MODELS:

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THIS VISIT

Complete this section before each new respite visit. These items will help get the respite care provider “up to speed” on what’s happening with your child and family at each visit. Completing this page may help to remind you of other areas of the notebook that also need to be updated.

Thanks for taking care of _____ from _____ to _____.
NAME DATE/TIME DATE/TIME

We hope this information will help you both/all be safe, comfortable, and enjoy your time together.

I would describe _____ personality as: _____
NAME'S

Note child’s mood, any unusual activities or circumstances, or if the routine has been regular.

* See page 10 for information about strategies for helping _____ with difficult feelings.
NAME

SO FAR, TODAY:

MEALS THUS FAR/SUGGESTIONS FOR MEALS

* See pages 18–20 for complete information on helping _____ with eating/drinking.
NAME

THIS VISIT (CONTINUED)

TOILETING THUS FAR/NOTES REGARDING TOILETING

* See pages 22–23 for complete information on helping _____ with toileting
NAME

MEDICATION THUS FAR/NOTES FOR THIS VISIT

* See page 13 for complete information on _____ medications.
NAME'S

Here's what we've planned for you and _____
NAME

Note scheduled activities: day, times, location, transportation arrangements, and contact information.

You will
 will not be driving _____ in your or our vehicle.
NAME

INSURANCE INFORMATION, CONSENT FORMS, KEYS CAN BE FOUND:

THESE THINGS MIGHT ALSO BE FUN (SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES)

* See pages 10–11 for information on _____ activities.
NAME'S

I/We will be _____ during your visit.
(LOCATION/ACTIVITY)

You can reach us at _____
(PHONE)

- With questions
- With updates
- In an emergency

We may be difficult to reach _____
(TIME/LOCATION)

IF YOU CANNOT REACH US, PLEASE CONTACT:

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE
------	--------------	-------

- With questions
- With updates
- In an emergency

An emergency information/medical summary form can be found on pages 25-27;
refer to it for physician's contact information and in any emergency.



GETTING TO KNOW US

FAMILY

THE GROWN-UPS

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	OCCUPATION & WORK ADDRESS	PHONE(S)
------	--------------	---------------------------	----------

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	OCCUPATION & WORK ADDRESS	PHONE(S)
------	--------------	---------------------------	----------

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD

NAME	AGE	SCHOOL & GRADE (OR ANALOGOUS)
------	-----	-------------------------------

SIBLINGS

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP	SCHOOL & GRADE (IF APPLICABLE)
------	-----	--------------	--------------------------------

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP	SCHOOL & GRADE (IF APPLICABLE)
------	-----	--------------	--------------------------------

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP	SCHOOL & GRADE (IF APPLICABLE)
------	-----	--------------	--------------------------------

PETS

NAME	TYPE
------	------

NEARBY FAMILY

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	CONTACT INFORMATION
------	--------------	---------------------

Religious beliefs/customs in our family that may impact care (e.g., diet, dress, treatment restrictions)

GETTING TO KNOW US (CONTINUED)

_____ has some special needs related to _____ (more on that later).
NAME DIAGNOSIS/CONDITION

But _____ is more than that diagnosis! Here are some words we use to describe
NAME

_____ ! [insert words to describe personality/disposition].
NAME

WHEN THINGS DON'T GO SO WELL

These are some ways we help _____ :
NAME

With transitions between activities:

When _____ is frustrated, anxious, upset:
NAME

These are some ways _____ calms down on his/her own:
NAME



_____ likes the following activities and things:
NAME

Activity/Item (e.g., TV, stuffed animal, swimming)	Where/when/how—and any limits (e.g., no TV after 8 p.m., only pre-selected videos)

_____ doesn't like the following activities and things:

NAME

Activity/Item	Strategies for avoiding/soothing

_____ is good at:

NAME

Activity/Skill	Ways to practice or acknowledge

_____ has trouble with:

NAME

Activity/Skill	Ways to Help (or see pages 17–24 for more detail)
Communication	See page: 17
Mobility	See page: 17
Eating/Drinking	See page: 18
Bathing/Toileting	See page: 22
Emotional Regulation	See page: 10



NAME'S MEDICAL NEEDS

NAME

NAME was diagnosed with:

NAME

CONDITION(S) AND TIME/CIRCUMSTANCE OF DIAGNOSIS (e.g., at birth, after a car accident, when s/he was 10 years old).

These conditions cause _____ (DESCRIBE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS)

NAME takes the following medications:

NAME

	Medication Name & Brief Description <small>(e.g., yellow capsule, liquid in green bottle)</small>	Dose / Route	Next Dose Due
1			
	Special Instructions:		
2			
	Special Instructions:		
3			
	Special Instructions:		
4			
	Special Instructions:		
5			
	Special Instructions:		

	Medical Supplies	Location
1		
	Special Instructions:	
2		
	Special Instructions:	
3		
	Special Instructions:	

We also support _____ with _____ (DESCRIBE TREATMENTS/THERAPIES)

NAME

_____. We hope you can help with those that we've underlined.



'S MEDICAL NEEDS

NAME _____

(CONTINUED)

SCARY, SERIOUS, AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Sometimes, _____ can cause other symptoms. You might not experience these, but we'd like you to be prepared.
NAME'S CONDITION

SCARY BUT NOT DANGEROUS

The following situations might be scary for you, but they are generally not dangerous (describe situations such as common seizures, etc. If you have a video of a seizure, note here where the video is kept):

HERE'S HOW TO HELP:

SERIOUS SITUATIONS

These situations are problematic (e.g., seizures lasting more than X minutes):

HERE'S HOW TO HELP:

In addition, please contact me and the following for further instructions:

	Contact Name & Title <small>(e.g., the primary care doctor, the specialist, etc)</small>	Phone Number
1		
2		
3		
4		

THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTE EMERGENCIES!

TAKE THESE STEPS:

AND CALL 9-1-1!

Then, please contact me & the following for further instructions:

	Contact Name & Title <small>(e.g., the primary care doctor, the specialist, etc)</small>	Phone Number
1		
2		
3		
4		

An emergency information/medical summary form can be found on pages 25-27;
it provides information for EMS and emergency care providers—
detach this page and give to these providers.



GETTING TO KNOW _____

NAME

HOW _____ COMMUNICATES

NAME

Check all that apply	Describe (use of tools, signs, etc)
<input type="checkbox"/> Talking <input type="checkbox"/> Sign language <input type="checkbox"/> TTY <input type="checkbox"/> Picture board <input type="checkbox"/> Gesture/facial <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Computer keyboard	
Gestures/images to show fear	
Gestures/images to show hunger	
Gestures/images to show toileting needs	
Other gestures/images	

MOBILITY/HOW _____ MOVES AROUND

NAME

Can do these things without assistance	Needs help with
<input type="checkbox"/> sit up <input type="checkbox"/> crawl <input type="checkbox"/> stand <input type="checkbox"/> walk <input type="checkbox"/> walk with assistance <input type="checkbox"/> climb stairs <input type="checkbox"/> run	<input type="checkbox"/> sit up <input type="checkbox"/> crawl <input type="checkbox"/> stand <input type="checkbox"/> walk <input type="checkbox"/> walk with assistance <input type="checkbox"/> climb stairs <input type="checkbox"/> run

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT THAT AID IN MOVEMENT:

Equipment and Brand Name	Used For	Trouble-shooting/ If the alarm sounds, try	Phone for repair

GETTING TO KNOW

NAME _____

(CONTINUED)

Describe position routines and preferences:

Describe transfer routines and strategies:

Other comments about mobility:



EATING / DRINKING

Is _____ likely to eat non-food items? YES NO
NAME

Prevention/interventions:

Any special positioning:

EATING / DRINKING (CONTINUED)

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

- none
uses: knife fork spoon
- supervision
- limited assistance
- complete assistance
- Feeding tube
 NG OG GT G/J tube

TUBE FEEDINGS

- gravity pump (pump rate: _____)

Formula Name/location:

Formula Amount:

Flush Amount:

How often:

Feeding tube care:

GETTING TO KNOW

NAME _____

(CONTINUED)

Location of extra feeding tubes:

How often are feeding tubes changed:

Care of skin around feeding tube:

Favorite foods:

Foods to avoid:

Food allergies & signs of allergic reaction:

Required foods/supplements:

FOOD PREPARATIONS

- none
- cut into pieces
- lightly blended
- pureed

DRINKS FROM

- does not take anything by mouth
- bottle
- sippy cup
- regular cup/glass

BREATHING / RESPIRATORY CARE

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- OXYGEN** Liters: _____ Route: _____
- SVN** Medication: _____ Amount: _____ Frequency: _____
- SUCTIONING** Route: _____ Catheter Size: _____ Frequency: _____
- TRACHEOSTOMY** Size/Brand: _____ Change Frequency: _____
- VENTILATOR** Type: _____
- Settings: IMV _____ SIMV _____ Volume _____
- Peak Pressure _____ PEEP _____ Rate _____
- PULSE OX** Type: _____
- Settings: Low Alarm _____ High Alarm: _____
- APNEA MONITOR** Type: _____
- Settings: High Heart Rate _____ Low Heart Rate _____
- Apnea settings in seconds _____
- CPAP** Type: _____
- Settings: Pressure _____
- MEDICATIONS**
- Albuterol**
- Nebulizer _____ Dose: _____ Frequency: _____
- Puffs _____ Frequency: _____
- Intal**
- Nebulizer _____ Dose: _____ Frequency: _____
- Puffs _____ Frequency: _____
- Provental**
- Nebulizer _____ Dose: _____ Frequency: _____
- Puffs _____ Frequency: _____

GETTING TO KNOW

NAME _____

(CONTINUED)

CLAPPING (CPT)

Frequency: _____

OTHER COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:

BATHING/TOILETING

BATHING

Tub Shower Other: _____

Assistance needed:

none supervision
 limited assistance complete assistance

TEETH BRUSHING

Assistance needed:

none supervision
 limited assistance complete assistance

TOILETING

Assistance needed:

none supervision limited assistance complete assistance

How often?

reminders needed

_____ will let you know s/he needs to go by _____
NAME

TOILETING (CONTINUED)

Location of menstrual supplies, if needed

EMOTIONAL REGULATION/BEHAVIOR

How _____ shows affection:
NAME

(E.G., HUGGING, SMILING, PETTING)

How _____ shows fear:
NAME

(E.G., HIDING, ROCKING, SILENCE, CRYING)

How _____ plays with other children:
NAME

(E.G., EASILY? SHY? AGGRESSIVE?)

_____ favorite activity with others:
NAME'S

What encourages _____ to cooperate:
NAME

What helps _____ change from one task to another:
NAME

GETTING TO KNOW

NAME _____

(CONTINUED)

How _____ responds to too much or not enough stimulation:

NAME

Meltdowns: YES NO

Can be caused by: _____

Warning signs: _____

How to help: _____

BEDTIME ROUTINE

ACTIVITIES

Read a story (location/title of favorites) _____

Sing a song (name of song) _____

Recite a standard prayer (location/title/text) _____

Say our own prayers

ANY BEDTIME PROPS? DESCRIPTION/LOCATION:

(E.G., STUFFED ANIMAL, BLANKET)

POSITIONING/TURNING:

STRATEGIES FOR WAKEFULNESS:

EMERGENCY INFORMATION / MEDICAL SUMMARY

Date of last revision _____

Completed by: _____

NAME/RELATIONSHIP

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Address: _____

Gender: _____

Primary Language/Mean of Communicating: _____

Interpreter needed: YES NO

Glasses: YES NO Hearing aids: YES NO

.....
Parent/Guardian Name/Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Primary Language: _____

Interpreter needed: YES NO

Primary Care Physician Name: _____

Emergency Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Specialty Physician name/specialty: _____

Emergency Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Specialty Physician name/specialty: _____

Emergency Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Anticipated ED: _____

Address and Zip Code (for GPS): _____

Phone: _____

Pharmacy: _____

Phone: _____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION / MEDICAL SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Diagnosis	Past Procedures	Physical Exam Findings
COMMENTS:		

Baseline physical findings: _____

Baseline vital signs: _____

Baseline neurological status: _____

Medication	Dose	Prescribed by

Significant baseline ancillary findings (lab, x-ray, ECG): _____

Prostheses/Appliances/Advanced Technology Devices: _____

Allergies: _____

Procedures to Avoid	Why	Per

Immunizations: _____ Date of last tetanus shot: _____

Common presenting problems: _____

Suggested diagnostic studies: _____

Treatment considerations: _____

Other: _____

Full code -or- Allow Natural Death



LONGER RESPITE CARE VISITS

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR LONGER RESPITE CARE

THERE IS NO AVERAGE LENGTH OF A RESPITE CARE VISIT. EVERY FAMILY AND EVERY SITUATION IS DIFFERENT. WE'VE TRIED TO ADDRESS THE INFORMATION A RESPITE CARE GIVER WILL NEED IN MOST SITUATIONS. HOWEVER, IF THE RESPITE CARE WILL LAST LONGER THAN A DAY OR TWO, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER ADDING SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

TRANSPORTATION

You will be driving _____ in: your vehicle our vehicle.
NAME

Insurance information, consent forms, keys can be found: _____

School transportation company: _____

Contact person: _____ Phone: _____

Website: _____

Tips for successful scheduling: _____

Days using school transport: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Medical appointment transport company: _____

Contact person: _____ Phone: _____

Website: _____

Tips for successful scheduling: _____

Days using school transport: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

SCHOOL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Principal: _____ Teacher(s) _____

BEFORE OR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name: _____

Address: _____

LONGER RESPITE CARE VISITS

(CONTINUED)

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Director: _____

Days attending:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HOME

Where can I find?

Thermostat: _____

Water shut-off: _____

Gas shut-off: _____

Circuit-breaker/Fuse box: _____

Flashlights: _____

Extra batteries: _____

Vacuum cleaner: _____

Mop/broom: _____

Other cleaning supplies: _____

In case of power outage, call: _____

Loss of power an emergency? YES NO

Back-up generator? YES NO

Location/instructions: _____

Security system? YES NO

Code: _____

Other instructions: _____

Fire arms in the house? YES NO

Other hazardous materials? YES NO

Instructions: _____

Name and phone number of neighbor: _____

Address: _____



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