



KIDS CONNECT

Fact Sheet

What is KIDS CONNECT?

KIDS CONNECT provides specialized services at licensed childcare centers and after-school programs for children with special healthcare needs so that they can fully participate in classroom daily routines, activities, and learning opportunities. Through participation in *KIDS CONNECT*, programs are able to provide an additional staff person in the classroom who has been trained to provide therapeutic services to support children with special health care needs.

Who is eligible for this service?

Children from infancy (6 weeks) through age 16 who:

- Have a moderate to severe chronic condition (developmental, medical, behavioral, or psychiatric)
- Need support to interact with peers and function within the daily routine of a childcare/after-school program, but do not require 1:1 assistance, and
- Are enrolled in Medicaid

Benefits of KIDS CONNECT

Children can show improvement and/or maintain skills in the following areas:

- Functional communication and language skills
- Social and peer interaction skills
- Behavioral and self-regulation skills
- Self-help and functioning within a daily routine

What are the costs for KIDSCONNECT?

The family continues to provide payment for the cost of the child care or after-school program. The childcare or after-school program is reimbursed by Medicaid for the additional staff time to provide the therapeutic services to support the child in their program.

How to Access

Families interested in *KIDS CONNECT* can find out more information by using the link below to access the EOHHS website *RI Medicaid Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs* guide for a list of participating certified *KIDS CONNECT* providers.

http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/CSHCN/CSHCNprograms_100417.pdf