



ACTIONS for the Guidance Counselor or School Psychologist

- Work with school staff to promote a supportive learning environment.
- Ensure that the student with diabetes is treated the same as students without diabetes, except to respond to medical needs.
- Be aware of and be prepared to respond to the emotional needs of the student. Children react differently to having diabetes. Some are accepting and open to discussing it; others are resentful and may attempt to hide it. Often, a single child will experience both kinds of feelings. Be aware of the student's feelings about having diabetes and identify ways to ensure the student is treated the same as other students.
- Recognize that students with chronic illnesses such as diabetes may rebel by discontinuing all or part of their medical regimen. Adolescent girls, for example, may not follow their insulin regimen because they want to lose weight or to avoid gaining weight.
- Be aware that some students may not wish to share information about their diabetes with other students or school staff, particularly if it makes them feel different from others.
- Promote and encourage independence and self-care that are consistent with the student's ability, skill, maturity, and development.
- Provide input to the student's school health team when requested.
- Communicate with the school nurse and/or trained diabetes personnel regarding any concerns about the student.
- Respect the student's confidentiality and right to privacy.