Meet Aiden

Aiden has been out sick for several days. You are getting worried, so you call his home to check on him. Aiden's father answers the phone. He apologizes for not calling sooner. He tells you that Aiden was hospitalized over the weekend. He was diagnosed with peanut allergy. Answer the questions that follow. Keep in mind the particular forms and procedures that may be required by your Service or licensing agency.

Note: Answers will vary based upon particular Service or licensing requirements.

1. What information will you need about Aiden's condition?

*How to keep Aiden safe and healthy while at your home. For example, does Aiden need a special diet now? Does he need any daily medication or emergency medication? What are the signs that he is having an allergic reaction? How do you help Aiden if he is having a reaction?*

2. What paperwork will Aiden's father need to complete?

*Answers will vary; see examples of health care plans in the Apply section. Likely, you will need a detailed health care plan or inclusion support plan that the health care provider also sees and provides information on. In addition, Aiden may need a medication form that specifies any medications he may need and documents dosage.*

3. Who else should Aiden's father talk to (e.g., nurse, health consultant) in your Service or resource and referral agency? Think about (a) who needs to know and (b) who would be a good resource for the family.

*Answers will vary, linking Aiden’s father with local health consultants who specialize in supporting families and children with allergies.*

4. What procedures will you need to follow in your program? Think about storing his care plan or inclusion support plan, storing medication, disposing of medical equipment, and other concerns.

*Assure you have an identified a space to safely and confidentially store Aiden's new care plan and that you can easily access it in an emergency when needed. Ensure that you are aware of Aiden's proper dietary needs and restrictions. Make sure Aiden's medication is stored properly and that you have worked out safe way to store and dispose of any medical equipment. Consider how you will safely administer any necessary care or medication to Aiden while assuring the safety of other children (will the other children engage in a table-top activity while you attend to Aiden to provide adequate supervision to all?).*
5. What are your program’s policies when it comes to providing care for children with special health needs? How will you get the necessary training to care for children with special health needs?

Talk with your trainer, coach or family child care administrator. Perhaps a local health-care professional, Aiden’s family, or Aiden’s primary health provider can train you so you know exactly how to care for Aiden and administer any medication or monitoring he may need while he is in your care.