



Transporting Individuals with Physical and Cognitive Disabilities and Behaviors

- A. We have said that you need to know enough about a individuals disability to know what impact it will have on transporting the individual
- B. In this section we are going to talk about
 1. The kinds of disabilities a individual with special needs might have
 2. The types of behaviors a individual with special needs might display
- C. Most of the individuals you transport have physical disabilities and require specialized equipment
 1. For those individual requiring use of a wheelchair please refer to orientation materials on Vehicle Orientation with Wheelchair Securement.
- D. Right now, lets focus on some of the other things we have to take into consideration when we are transporting individuals with special needs
- E. In addition to their physical limitations, for some individuals there may also be communication barriers
 1. Some individuals may have cognitive limitations that affect their ability to understand your directions
 - a. They don't know what you mean because they have a problem understanding language
 2. Some individuals may have disabilities that affect your ability to communicate with them and their ability to communicate with you
 3. What are some examples of disabilities that might affect communication?
 - Impaired hearing
 - Impaired sight
 - Autism
 - Speech or language impairment
 - Mental retardation
 - Learning disabilities
 - Traumatic brain injury

F. In addition to their physical limitations and their communication difficulties, some individuals have unusual or unpredictable behaviors that may startle you if you aren't prepared for them

1. What we are talking about are behaviors that the individual is unable to control
2. Here are some examples
 - . Rocking
 - a. Unpleasant language or repetitive phrases
 - b. Yelling or calling out or significant swallowing difficulty
 - c. Drooling
 - d. Difficulty sitting upright
 - e. Abnormal breathing patterns
 - f. Startle response to loud noises or fast movement, etc., e.g., to lift operation
 - g. Asthma
 - h. Seizures
3. Are there other behaviors that you have encountered?

[Conduct discussion.]

G. Knowing the unique characteristics of the individuals you transport will help you to react correctly

1. Like individuals, disabilities vary greatly
2. Remember that individuals are people first and then they are people with disabilities
3. Your communication with any individual with special needs depends on that individual's abilities
 - . Don't let the focus be the individual's condition
 - a. Treat each individual as an individual
4. Remember that you treat the individual with special needs the same way that you treat any other individual of that age
 - . Be respectful; don't talk down to the individual
 - a. Be positive and encouraging
 - b. Allow as much independence as you can safely afford
 - c. Learn the language of the individuals on your school bus, both verbal and non-verbal
 - d. Don't talk about the individual as if he or she isn't there
5. Remember that you are part of a team that cares about that individual
6. Learn about the individual's abilities by

- . Talking with parents/caregivers, teachers, and therapists
- a. Observing the individual yourself

H. Are there any questions about the types of equipment individuals with special needs might have or the kinds of behaviors they might display?



Acknowledgement of Receipt of Training

Date _____

Provider _____

I, _____ (name of Provider), acknowledge that I have received Alianza Family Services (AFS) orientation and training covering the following NM Department of Health requirements as specified in NM DDS Policy T-003 dated February 23, 2007 "Training Requirements for Direct Service Agency Staff."

_____ (please initial) Aspiration Risk Management Training

_____ (please initial) Blood-borne Pathogen Training

_____ (please initial) Hazardous Materials Guide

_____ (please initial) Fire Extinguisher Training

_____ (please initial) Proper Lifting Procedures ("Back Safety Training")

_____ (please initial) General Vehicle Safety Precautions

_____ (please initial) Transporting Individuals with Physical and Cognitive Disabilities and Behaviors (Assisting Passengers with Disabilities)

_____ (please initial) Wheelchair Securement Training

_____ (please initial) Emergency Procedures for Disaster Preparedness (Emergency Evacuation Procedures)

Signature of Provider Trainee

Signature of AFS Representative

Name of AFS Representative (print)

Please turn in completed form to your Alianza Family Services Service Coordinator