

Epilepsy School Alert Program

Changing perceptions through education

STUDENTS AND EPILEPSY

If a child at your school is having seizures, it is important to discuss epilepsy with the rest of the children in the class. **By discussing it openly, all of the children can be educated and a sense of community is fostered.** Epilepsy School Alert Program is an educational program for the child's classmates and/or the whole school. **These open forums can be helpful in shifting the other children's perspective from fear and teasing to respect and friendship.**

Epilepsy is a neurological condition caused by sudden brief changes in the brain's electrical balance. Seizures can alter awareness, physical movements, consciousness or actions. Epilepsy is often called a "seizure disorder." Both terms are used to describe recurring seizures.

- **Epilepsy affects more than 315,000 students in the United States**
- **More than 45,000 new cases are diagnosed annually in students**
- **Epilepsy is more common than Cerebral Palsy, Parkinson's Disease, and Multiple Sclerosis combined**
- **2 in 3 (67%) students would not know what to**

ERASE THE STIGMA

Students with epilepsy report experiencing significantly greater levels of stigma at school compared with people living and working in other settings. The occurrence of psychosocial problems related to epilepsy is well recognized and in certain situations could even be more troublesome than the effect of the seizure disorders themselves. **The lack of information about epilepsy in the schools is an important factor in perpetuating fear, stigma and the mistreatment of people with epilepsy.**

School Alert Puppet Show

- **Acceptance** For: Pre-K thru Grade 3
- **Diversity** Time: 20 - 30 minutes
- **Seizure First Aid**

A **FREE** presentation to schools in Sedgwick County, the show teaches students to recognize types of seizures and the appropriate first aid.

Students are challenged to understand how having epilepsy would make a fellow student feel—promoting tolerance and acceptance.

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