



Medical Eligibility

To be eligible for acceptance into the Great Escapes program, a child must have a serious illness or a severe chronic medical condition that significantly affects their day-to-day existence.

To be considered medically eligible for the program, a child must have a medical illness or condition that falls within one of the following categories:

- **The applicant has a life threatening medical illness**

The medical illness must be malignant, degenerative and/or progressive and puts the child's life in jeopardy.

- **The condition significantly restricts mobility**

An applicant qualifies if they are able to walk but has a significantly affected gait; is permanently confined to a wheelchair, is paralyzed and/or needs assistance with activities of daily living. If a child is mobile, but restricted from activities such as sports or walking long distances, the child would not necessarily be considered medically eligible unless there were other factors supporting the severity.

- **The pain and discomfort from the condition cannot be controlled or surgically repaired**

A child whose condition causes ongoing pain that cannot be controlled with medical intervention.

- **The condition requires significant and ongoing medical treatment**

Any child whose condition requires significant and ongoing medical treatment is considered medically eligible. For example, the need for dialysis, transfusions and long-term therapy indicate a severe medical condition.

- **The condition is progressive**

Any child, whose condition will become progressively worse, resulting in a significant loss such as sight, hearing or mobility is considered medically eligible.

- **If the condition is not progressive, it must be current**

A child, who has had a diagnosis of cancer and has been off treatment for over two years, is not considered medically eligible. In addition, a child who received a transplant and has experienced no sign of rejection or other serious medical complications for over a year is not considered medically eligible.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT QUALIFY

- AIDS
- Cancer
- Cardiomyopathy
- Crohn's
- Cystic Fibrosis
- End state renal disease
- Heart disease
- HIV
- Kidney Disease
- Lupus
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular dystrophy
- Mitochondrial disease
- Neurofibromatosis
- Osteomyelitis
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Severe Combined Immune Deficiency
- Sickle Cell
- Spina Bifida
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Ulcerative Colitis

MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHERE YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION

- Burn injuries (find out when occurred, did they have any recent surgeries)
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder (ask how seizure effects life)
- Organ transplant (find out when occurred)
- Long term trauma recovery
- Traumatic brain injury

MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT DO NOT QUALIFY

- Autism
- Down Syndrome
- Psychiatric conditions
- Munchausen syndrome by Proxy
- Developmental delays
- Eating disorders

The medical conditions listed are not all inclusive. There may be additional conditions, not listed, that may or may not qualify a child.

When you're unsure if a Child Qualifies

In some instances, the effect of the medical condition is unclear, i.e. diabetes, asthma, etc. In these scenarios, you can use the following measurements to determine whether or not a child qualifies. All of the information you receive should be based on the last 12 months from when the person is answering the questions.

- The last time the child was in the hospital for a hospital stay related to their medical condition (this does not include physical, check-up, broken arm, tonsillitis, etc.)
- The number of inpatient hospitalizations that the child has experienced
 - What was the average length of stay?
- The number of outpatient visits to the physician
- The number of absences from school due to their medical condition
- Are day to day physical activities interrupted due to their medical condition? If so, how?
- Are there any other treatments or procedures coming in the next 12 months?
- The opinion of the child's physician regarding the severity of the condition

Obtaining Medical Confirmation

A physician must confirm the child's medical condition. Starlight should medically confirm the referral before informing the parents of the child's acceptance into the program.

It is helpful to have the child's parents alert the physician to expect the call from Starlight. If the physician declines to provide medical information without a signed authorization from the child's parents, Starlight should send the physician the signed **HIPPA Form**.