

Preparation for entry into or resumption of school is best accomplished through a team approach with the parents, child, teacher, school nurse, and primary nurse in the hospital. Ideally, this planning should begin before hospital discharge, provided that the child is well enough to resume usual activities. A structured plan should be developed, with attention to aspects of care that must be continued during school hours, such as administration of medication or other treatments.

Children also need preparation before entering or resuming school. Having a tutor in the hospital or home as soon as children are physically able helps them realize that school will continue and gives them time to consider this prospect (Fig. 17-5). They need to investigate possible answers to the many questions others will ask. One method of anticipatory preparation is to role-play, with the child as the “returned pupil” and the nurse or parent as “other schoolmates.” If the child returns to school with some obvious physical change (such as hair loss, amputation, or a visible scar), the nurse might also ask questions about these alterations to prompt preparatory responses from the child.



**FIG 17-5** Children with disabilities should continue their schooling as soon as their condition permits.