

Appropriate precautions during potentially hazardous activities may include:

- Swimming with a companion
- Showers preferred; bathing only with close supervision
- Use of protective helmet and padding during bicycle riding, skateboarding, in-line skating
- Supervision during use of hazardous machinery or equipment

Have child carry or wear medical identification.

Alert other caregivers to need for any special precautions.

Child may not drive or operate hazardous machinery or equipment unless seizure free for designated period (varies by state).

Long-Term Care

Care of the child with epilepsy involves physical care and instruction regarding the importance of adherence to the treatment plan. Probably more significant is education and support regarding the potential for the development of psychosocial, educational, and emotional problems in children with epilepsy and their families. Few diseases generate as much anxiety among families, friends, and school personnel as epilepsy. Fears and misconceptions about the disease and its treatment are common. For many, it represents the archetype of severe hereditary affliction. Nursing care is directed toward educating the child and family about epilepsy, helping them develop strategies for coping with the psychosocial problems related to epilepsy, and directing them to resources for children and families living with epilepsy.

Children with epilepsy are prescribed antiepileptic medications, which are administered at regular intervals to maintain adequate