

# Improving the Care of Children with Diabetes in School Through Staff Education

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# Abstract

**Background:** Diabetes is a growing problem in the United States. The number of school-aged children with diabetes is increasing annually. Diabetes is a disease that requires ongoing management throughout the day. Since children spend a large portion of the day at school, it is imperative that all school staff are educated about the care and management of diabetes.

**Results:** Research has indicated that non-medical school staff lack knowledge and are not confident in the management of diabetes. There has also been research conducted on ways to improve school staff education through policies, presentations, and eLearning materials. The material presented to the school staff has been shown to improve staff knowledge and confidence in managing children with diabetes at school.

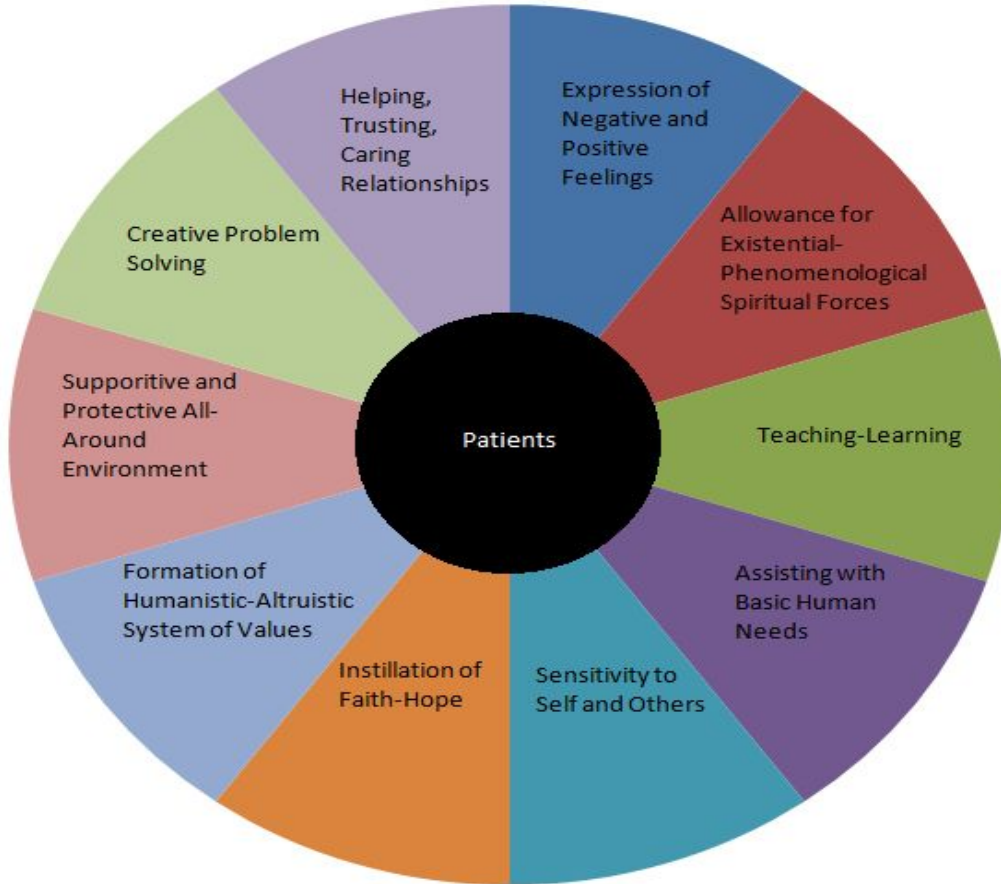
**Conclusion:** Because the number of school-aged children with diabetes is increasing, non-medical school staff need to be aware of the complications and management of diabetes. This will ensure that diabetic students have a safe learning environment.

# Introduction



- The number of young people with diabetes is on the rise in the U.S. population; therefore, diabetes management is needed throughout the school day.
- The purpose of this research was to improve management of diabetes in school aged children.
- School nurses are knowledgeable about the care and management of diabetes, however non-medical personnel have limited knowledge and lack of confidence in the care and management of diabetes.

# Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring



- All beings are interconnected
- Nurses enhance health through caring-healing relationships
- School nurses reinforce interconnectedness between children and school staff
- Educating school staff about health needs creates a safer environment for students



# School Personnel Knowledge and Perceived Skills in Diabetic Emergencies in Georgia Public Schools

**Purpose:** To assess school personnel's knowledge of diabetes and perceived self-competence in performing diabetes management skills

## Results:

- School personnel did not demonstrate a high level of knowledge in understanding of what diabetes is, symptoms of diabetic emergencies, or effective treatment for diabetes emergencies.
- School personnel did not perceive themselves as competent in symptom recognition or to provide treatment.



## Evaluation of the impact of a diabetes education eLearning program for school personnel on diabetes knowledge, knowledge retention, and confidence in caring for students with diabetes

**Purpose:** To study the impact of an eLearning approach in delivering diabetes related education including knowledge and sets of practice to school personnel

**Results:** Using eLearning to offer diabetes education for school personnel can lead to increased knowledge which can be retained for up to 12 months and increase confidence in caring for students with diabetes.

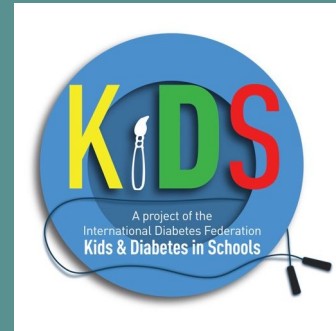


## “KiDS and Diabetes in Schools” project: Experience with an international educational intervention among parents and school professionals

**Purpose:** To introduce an international educational intervention tool (International Diabetes Federation KiDS and Diabetes in School project) and to describe knowledge and behavior of caregivers and school professionals

### Results:

- School staff acquired new knowledge on diabetes and its treatment.
- School staff felt more confident when helping students with diabetes and promoted a positive impact on the teacher-student relationship, on the caring for health, and on school infrastructure.
- Families of students with diabetes strengthened their knowledge and received up to date information on treatment.



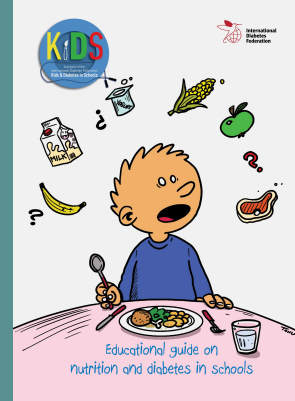
# Recommendations

## Procedure:

- Prepare a presentation each year for staff detailing the importance of diabetes education
- Pre-test
- Provide education through eLearning materials and resources for the staff to review and complete
- Post-test
- Evaluate the effectiveness and make changes as needed

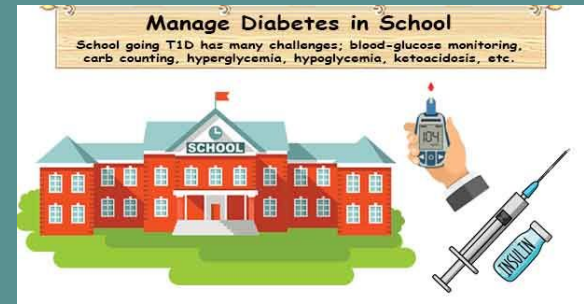
## Recommended Resource:

- KiDS project for diabetes education in schools
  - Free resource that provides online material to educate kids, teachers, parents, and others about diabetes
  - **Website:** <https://kids.idf.org/>






# Conclusion



- The number of children with diabetes is on the rise and it is vital for school staff to understand and care for students with diabetes.
- Research has indicated that school staff lack knowledge and confidence when managing and caring for a student with diabetes.
- School nurses are in the role to provide effective education and training to the staff about health concerns for the students.
- Ongoing education and training needs to be provided yearly to ensure staff are knowledgeable and confident in providing care for and helping students manage their diabetes.

# References

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