

# STOP: A STUDENT IN YOUR CLASS HAS SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS



STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

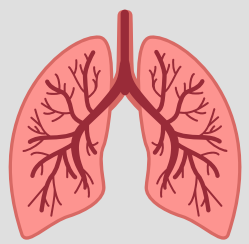
The student was born with a birth defect called Oesophageal Atresia (OA) and Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula (TOF)

OA/TOF is a birth defect causing a misconnection between the stomach, airway, and oesophagus. People with OA/TOF are fixed at birth with surgery but are not cured.

The student has some special considerations regarding their eating and drinking habits.



The student may have a cough or noisy breathing even when they are not sick.



This can increase with exercise, meal times, or even strong emotions. Please try not to single the student out for their cough, it is often “normal” for them.

The student may need to keep a water bottle, juice, or a cup next to them throughout the day.



The student may struggle to swallow certain foods and drinks, and may take longer to eat or drink.

The student should not be forced to eat anything they are uncomfortable with, and new foods and drinks should be given with caution. Please give consideration with activities involving foods or treats.

Do not rush the student with eating or drinking. Encourage them to keep healthy eating habits such as chewing slowly and taking small bites.



Noisy eating can be common.

When this becomes severe it can be known as a “stuckie.” This is when difficult to swallow food gets temporarily stuck in the throat or esophagus. The child may drink, cough, or even stand up while eating to help.

Communicate the above with all school and support staff who will be working with the student.



Contact the school nurse, parent/guardian, or the student if concerns or questions arise.

# GETTING TO KNOW

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## PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFO:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



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## ALL ABOUT ME

### SPECIAL FACTS AND ADDITIONAL INFO

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