**Things To Know About IRA’s**

1) For those in a Day Habilitation Program:  depending on the location of the IRA and the location of the Day Hab., it may be necessary to move to a Day Hab. program closer to the IRA.

2) Regarding any creams, toothpaste, shampoo you typically use in your home and will continue to use in the IRA - if they have any medication ingredients, even if purchased over the counter, will require a doctor's prescription.

Even over-the-counter (OTC) medications, for example allergies, colds, skin breakouts etc., require a doctor's order.

3) IRA staff can't clip or cut finger and toenails; they can only use a nail file.

4) Label clothing and personal items to make it easier for staff when doing laundry, etc.

5) Prepare a list of likes/dislikes (foods, activities), fears, etc.

6) Make a list of behaviors and how you typically address them.

7) Make use of face time, emails, cards/postcards, pictures to keep in touch outside of regular visits.

8) Inform staff of sleep patterns/behaviors.  The home will notify you about behaviors they may encounter or observe especially during the initial adjustment period.  Keep lines of communication open as your child, you and the residence staff get to know each other.

9) The IRA will require original copies of birth certificate, Medicare, Medicaid or any other insurance cards. Be sure to maintain copies for yourself.

10) Understand that the IRA will become the Representative Payee for Social Security monies.

11) When taking your child out for the day or overnight stay, be sure to call/email/text the residence with times for pick-up and return. This will help them prepare for any medications that may need to be taken.  This also helps if the residence has any activities scheduled.

12) Keep extra clothing and toiletries at your home for visits.

13)  Keep your Plan Care Manager involved and advised of your child's adjustment, concerns, etc.

14) Keep copies of all forms you complete for admission (application, consent forms, etc.)

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