

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Catheter:** a tube used for draining fluid from the body or for injecting fluid into the body.

**Central Nervous System (CNS):** the brain and spinal cord.

**Diphtheria:** an acute bacterial illness that causes a sore throat and a fever. It sometimes causes more serious and even fatal complications. It is caused by the *bacillus corynebacterium diphtheriae*.

**DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis):** a series of injections that provide immunity against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. DTP vaccine is given at the ages of two, four, and six months. More injections are given at 15 to 18 months of age and before school at the age of four to six years. See also *diphtheria*, *tetanus*, and *pertussis*.

**Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA):** a federal law that protects the privacy of a student's educational records. It gives parents the right to inspect and review all of the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of the records unless it is impossible for parents to inspect the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies. Parents have the right to request that a school correct records for inaccurate or misleading statements. If the school decides not to make amends to the record, the parent has a right to place a statement in the record that comments on the contested information in the record.

**Gastrointestinal (GI):** the part of the digestive system that consists of the mouth, esophagus, stomach, and intestines.

**IDEA:** see *Individuals with Disability Education Act*.

**IEP:** see *Individualized Education Plan*.

**Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA):** an educational law relating to children with developmental delays as defined specifically by each state. The law includes mandates to provide services to children three to five years of age and six to twenty-one years of age. School-age children must be provided annual individualized education programs (IEPs). Children from birth through two years of age receiving early intervention service may be provided individualized family service plans (IFSPs).

**Individualized Education Plan (IEP):** a written plan for a child with a chronic condition or disability that describes the goals, short-term instructional objectives, and special education-related services needed for the child. This plan is required for children over the age of three years.

**Multidisciplinary Team (M-team):** a committee of individuals from varying disciplines that meet to plan for a student's special needs. The meetings are held as part of the process for addressing special education requirements or for addressing special needs of the student.

**Occupational Therapist (OT):** a licensed professional who has training to assist individuals with an injury or disability to learn or improve their fine motor skills, feeding skills, and daily living skills, as well as provide instruction on adaptation to equipment.

**Pertussis:** an infectious disease, also called whooping cough, that affects mostly infants and young children. It is caused by a bacterium, *bordetella pertussis*, that is spread from an infected person to others by coughing out airborne droplets.

**Physical Therapist (PT):** a licensed professional who has training to assist individuals with an injury or disability with learning or improving physical movement and positioning and with the development of gross motor skills.

**Respiratory Therapist (RT):** a licensed professional who has training to assist individuals with impaired lung function or the prevention and treatment of pulmonary complications after surgery. The therapist treats severe respiratory diseases and cares for the respiratory needs of individuals who are on ventilators or who are recovering from major operations.

**Tetanus:** a serious, sometimes fatal disease of the central nervous system, caused by infection of a wound with spores of *bacterium clostridium tetani*. A shot is needed every ten years to immunize against tetanus.

**Tracheotomy:** an operation performed to make an opening in the trachea (windpipe) for insertion of a tube to maintain an airway for an individual who is unable to breathe through the normal air passages. This procedure allows air to go in and out of the lungs.

**Varicella:** another name for chicken pox.

**Ventilator:** a life support machine or respirator used to take over respiration in an individual who lacks or has lost the ability to breathe naturally. The ventilator is an electrical pump connected to an air supply that works like bellows.