

A food allergy is a medical condition - Inclusion in all situations

Jessica had an amputation when she was little. She has an artificial leg. She is really looking forward to camp.

- Scenario 1: The Guider says I don't see why you need that fake leg. The other kids don't. You aren't allowed to wear it this weekend. You can come, but I'm taking the leg away from you.
- Scenario 2: You can still come to camp, but you have to sleep in a different room and you aren't allowed to do the activities with the other kids because you might slow them down.
- Scenario 3: The Guider says: I really wish I didn't have to deal with a kid like you. It makes things really hard. The other kids suffer because we have to wait for you.
- Scenario 4: The Guider calls the parents and says Jessica can come to camp, but you have to plan all the activities for her, I'm not going to try to make sure there is stuff she can do. You're fine with that though right?
- Scenario 5: The guider takes a little extra time, talks to the parents and asks if there are any signs they should watch for, and Jessica comes to camp, just like all the other kids.

Scenario 1-4 seem hard to believe.

Now consider Becky. She is allergic to eggs and nuts. Her parents found out about her allergies when she was a year old. She is really looking forward to camp.

- Scenario 1: I don't see why we have to have different food because of you. We always have eggs and toast for breakfast at camp. You can come, but we're still cooking eggs.
- Scenario 2: You can still come to camp, but you're going to have to sit at your own table, and eat at a different time than the other kids because I don't want to have to worry about your allergies and cross-contamination.
- Scenario 3: I really wish I didn't have to deal with a kid like you. You make things really hard. We can't even have granola on our hike, which isn't fair to the other girls.
- Scenario 4: The Guider calls the parents and says Becky can come to camp, you have to pay the regular registration fee, and you also need to provide all her own food because we're not doing that and she can't help with cooking, or clean up so the other kids will feel like she's not really part of the group, but you're okay with that right?
- Scenario 5: The guider takes a little extra time, talks to the parents, reviews the menu with them to see if they have any concerns or suggestions and Becky comes to camp just like all the other kids.

The reality is that the first four scenarios for Jessica would not be acceptable at all, yet the first four scenarios for Becky happen all the time.