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## Kids & Looping at School

[Automated Insulin Delivery](#) (AID) systems have revolutionized Type 1 diabetes management. BCDiabetes loves all AIDs, but particularly loves [supported open-source AID](#) (SOSAID) because they are cheaper and at least as effective and safe as retail AIDs, and offer a “Caretaker” functionality that allows for remote bolusing. Click [here](#) to read our paper describing the outcomes of our first 248 SOSAID installations: to see an update with outcomes from our first 1442 Loopers presented as a poster at the ADA meeting in Chicago June 2025 [click here](#).

The most seismic changes have been felt by the parents of kids less than high-school age and the kids themselves. BCDiabetes has now more than 500 kids < 13 years of age on Loop.

Unfortunately many school boards in British Columbia refuse to support kids using SOSAID. In the short term other than parents and doctors lobbying them by writing lots of letters the situation is unlikely to change. Only when SOSAPS is approved by Health Canada will all school boards agree. In terms of getting Health Canada approval, the first step is more research. BCDiabetes is about to launch a randomized controlled trial of SOSAID vs retail AID: the trial will have ethics approval and with it SOSAID will gain wider acceptance both from the diabetes scientific community and from school boards! Note, in January 2023 [Tidepool Loop](#) received FDA approval. Tidepool Loop is almost identical to Loop currently being used by > 30,000 individuals worldwide & by more than 2500 BCDiabetes clients.

[Here's a letter](#) that you could share with school officials to help familiarize them with Loop.

In the meantime parents whose elementary school-age kids are using SOSAPS have 2 options

- 1) On school days toggle the Loop app's configuration to “open” when their kid is at school and toggle it back to “closed” when they get home. This is equivalent to reverting to pre APS days such that the Omnipod pod runs as if it were controlled by a regulation Omnipod PDM.
- 2) Set up the [Loop Caregiver app](#) such that one parent (not both) has the ability to give boluses remotely. The parent watches the CGM and either
  - a) gives a bolus at the time they expect their kid to eat
  - b) waits for the CGM to rise at an expected mealtime & then gives a bolus
  - c) gives a “meal announcement” by entering the expected number of carbs - this does not trigger a bolus but makes the basal rate & ISF more aggressive, effecting a pseudo bolus.

The only caveat with using Loop Caregiver is that the command to give a remote bolus must NOT be made at the same time that the kid's Loop app updates with a new CGM value. By default therefore, all Loop Caregiver bolus commands are given 60 seconds after a CGM value update. If the command is given simultaneously with the kid's CGM value updating, the bolus will be ignored.

BCDiabetes does not routinely offer Loop Caregiver to the parents of kids of elementary school age, but will consider parental requests on a case-by-case basis.

School board administrators, do not hesitate to reach out to me for further advice or information via email at [drtomelliott@bcdiabetes.ca](mailto:drtomelliott@bcdiabetes.ca) short URL = <https://bit.ly/LoopCaregiver>