

What is a Medical Home?

A medical Home is having a “home base” for your child’s health care needs.

The place where you usually take your child for health care can be your child’s medical home. But a medical home is more than just a place, it is how your child is cared for.

In a Medical Home:

- You have a doctor (pediatrician or pediatric nurse practitioner) who helps you keep your child healthy. When your child gets sick, the doctor and staff may bring in other team members who can best help your child.
- Care is focused on the whole child, not just one part or problem.
- Your family is at the center of care.
- The doctor and staff include your family in making decisions about your child’s health care.

What are the benefits of a Medical Home?

- Opens up sharing of information between your doctor and family. This improves how problems are solved and leads to better health and development for your child.
- Builds mutual respect between your family and care givers.
- Catches problems early on to reduce visits to the emergency room and hospital. This lowers family stress, health care cost, and the number of days missed from school or work.

How do I know if my child has a medical home?

Medical homes are a new way of thinking about health care. Medical homes do not happen right away – they take time to develop. They don’t all look exactly the same either. What you see in one office may differ from another office.

You can help create a medical home for your child. Use our medical home check list to see what you have now. Then you, your family and your child’s doctor and other members of the care team can begin to build a strong medical home for your child.