



TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THEIR MEDICAL HOME

Everyone Can Play a Role!

Child Health Day is October 5th ...and the American Academy of Pediatrics wants children and their families across the country to know *that every child deserves a medical home* – on Child Health Day and every day.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) will recognize Child Health Day this year by focusing on an issue close to its heart, and that of all the children, families and professionals it serves—the family-centered **MEDICAL HOME**. The Academy will celebrate by increasing awareness and the understanding of what a **MEDICAL HOME** is and why every child deserves one.

MEDICAL HOME is the kind of care we all want and deserve. **MEDICAL HOME** is based on a trusting partnership between a child, a child’s family and the pediatric team who oversees the child’s health and well-being.

EVERYONE CAN INCREASE AWARENESS OF MEDICAL HOME!

We can all play an important role in contributing to a child’s **MEDICAL HOME**, first by helping spread awareness of the concept and empowering families and children to participate in the process. Following are some points you may want to use to introduce Child Health Day and **MEDICAL HOME** to others:

- ☀ Child Health Day was started more than 80 years ago by the President of the United States to remind Americans – kids and grown-ups – that doing the right things to stay healthy is very important.
- ☀ Eating the right food (the four food groups!), getting plenty of exercise and sleep and having regular check-ups with your doctor are just some of the things you can do to stay healthy.
- ☀ This year, Child Health Day is about kids deserving a **MEDICAL HOME** – a place where the doctors, nurses and others know you and help you take care of your health.
- ☀ Think about who is part of your **MEDICAL HOME** – the doctors and nurses you see when you go for a check-up or when you’re sick.
 - What do you like best about them?
 - What do you like about their office?

Is there anyone else who is part of your **MEDICAL HOME**?

You are part of the **MEDICAL HOME**, too! Talking with parents and your own primary care provider about your health so you can learn more about it and working to stay healthy is how you can make your medical home the best one for you.

MEDICAL HOME NEEDS CARING TEACHERS, TOO!

Teachers and care givers, who spend a substantial amount of time with children, know how their students’ health affects their school work. Healthy children are better prepared to learn and solve problems.

Downloadable coloring sheets and other materials that more fully illustrate **MEDICAL HOME** for children are available at <http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/about/ChildHealthDay2009.html>.

We hope you will join AAP in spreading the word about **MEDICAL HOME** and helping children take an active role in staying healthy.



CHILD HEALTH DAY 2009
EVERY CHILD DESERVES A MEDICAL HOME
National Center for Medical Home Implementation

A cooperative agreement between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau/HRSA and the American Academy of Pediatrics