

**Early Explorers Head Start/Early Head Start
TGU School District #60**

2004
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Medical Home

This Head Start program shall assist all enrolled families to develop a medical home by linking the family to ongoing healthcare through education on preventative health measures and helping them find resources to establish a family physician, clinic, dentist, and home medical records. Education on the importance of early intervention and follow-up care is also stressed.

American Academy of Pediatrics Definition Of Medical Home

A medical home is not a building, house, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing health care services in a high-quality and cost-effective manner. Children and their families who have a medical home receive the care that they need from a pediatrician or physician whom they trust. Pediatricians and parents act as partners in a medical home to identify and access the entire medical and non-medical services needed to help children and their families achieve their maximum potential.

The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that all children should have a medical home where care is accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate and culturally competent. Examples of these elements include:

Accessible:

- Care is provided in the child's community.
- All insurance, including Medicaid, is accepted and changes are accommodated.

Family-Centered

- Recognition that the family is the principal caregiver and the center of strength and support for children.
- Unbiased and complete information is shared on an ongoing basis.

Continuous

- Same primary pediatric health care professionals are available from infancy through adolescence.
- Assistance with transitions (to school, home, adult services) is provided.

Comprehensive

- Health care is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Preventive, primary, and tertiary care needs are addressed.

Coordinated

- Families are linked to support, education, and community based services.
- Information is centralized.

Compassionate

- Concern for well being of child and family is expressed and demonstrated.

Culturally Competent

- Family's cultural background is recognized, valued, and respected.

The ideal source of a child's medical home is a primary care pediatrician working in partnership with the child's parents. For children with special needs, it may be best for a pediatric sub specialist to coordinate care with the child's primary care pediatrician and parents to provide a medical home.