

What is a Medical Home?

A Medical Home is your “home base for healthcare”. It can be a doctor's office, a community clinic or a local health department where the staff knows you, your child, and your child's health history. A Medical Home offers a partnership between your doctor and your family for:

- checkups
- sick visits
- accidents
- special health needs
- immunizations (shots)

Why does your child need a Medical Home?

A Medical Home offers the VERY BEST CARE for your child. Because the staff knows your child and your child's health history, they can:

- catch little problems before they become big problems
- give you help and advice
- make sure your child gets the checkups, screenings, and shots they need to stay well
- help you find the right specialists and equipment for your child
- tell you about helpful community programs

Did you know that colds, ear infections, and fevers are the top three reasons young children visit the emergency room?

In fact, it is rare when children need to be seen in the Emergency Room. The Emergency Room is for TRUE emergencies – times when children may have a life-threatening injury or risk their health without immediate treatment. That's another reason it's so important to have a Medical Home. You can call your trusted physician for help 24 hours a day rather than go to an Emergency Room.

And when your child is sick or hurt...Help is only a phone call away!

Your doctor can tell you whether you should:

- treat your child at home
- come to the doctor's office
- or go to the Emergency Room.

Afraid you can't afford a Medical Home because your child doesn't have health insurance?

The Health Check(Medicaid)/NC Health Choice health insurance programs are North Carolina publicly funded programs to assure every child has the health insurance and services they need. Eligibility is based on income guidelines, so even if you work, you may qualify.

For more information, call the NC Family Resource Line at 1-800-367-2229 or visit www.nchealthystart.org.

If you are a professional and would like to order Medical Home Materials in bulk FREE for patient or community education, please visit www.nchealthystart.org.