



Medical Education Program (MEd)

Specialized Training for Pediatric and Family Practice Residents

In response to a growing population of children with chronic illness and developmental disabilities who are living at home and actively participating in our communities, Texas Parent to Parent has created the

MEd Program to give medical residents and health care professionals a more complete understanding of what life with a child with a disability or special health care needs is like to improve their treatment and care.

MEd Curriculum

A diverse group of trained volunteer parents invite residents into their lives to experience first-hand how they meet the challenge of raising a child with special health care needs. The MEd Program and MEd Site Coordinators recruit and train these volunteer parents and develop, hand-in-hand with the hospital or medical school, a schedule for each resident to participate in a home visit, school visit, and communication skills interview. Most residents also attend a Parent Panel Presentation and Resource Noon Talk. These activities give the resident first-hand experience in the day-to-day life of the child and family.

Family Visits

TxP2P MEd Site Coordinators match residents with volunteer families for in-home visits and to learn more about their lives. The MEd Program Coordinator and TxP2P staff are available to manage all aspects of coordination and feedback, requiring minimal effort on the part of your organization. Staff can customize the number of home visits. Some programs choose for their trainees to make a one-time visit. Others have opted for several visits to occur at each subsequent level of training. Longitudinal visits with one family over several years can also be arranged. Family visits enhance the resident's understanding of the impact a child with a chronic illness or developmental disability has on family dynamics.

Early Intervention or Multidisciplinary Team Process

Residents observe an assessment or therapeutic intervention (PT, OT, ST, Audiology, Parent training, etc.). These visits can be arranged in conjunction with or in addition to home visits. They can also occur at a school, therapy center, or medical facility.

Educational Process

Resident accompanies a parent to observe their child's elementary, middle or high school classroom, or attend a parent-teacher conference or special education eligibility meeting (ARD/IEP) .

Communication Skills

Resident interviews a parent using suggested questions covering funding sources, discussing difficult topics, and fostering family-centered relationships. Parents provide insight from

their personal experiences such as receiving a diagnosis, struggling to understand resources, and more.

Lectures / Noon Talks / Informal discussions

Lectures and informal discussions can be presented by an individual parent or a parent panel as desired. Topics may include but are not limited to the following:

- accessing community resources
- awareness of cultural diversity
- negotiating the special education process
- financial and legal issues
- delivering sensitive news
- interviewing skills
- understanding stages that parents experience
- coping with grief
- personal parenting experiences
- the Medical Home concept
- transition from pediatric to adult-centered health care

Advocacy/Legislative Process: Resident, accompanied by a parent, observes a legislative session, public hearing, or task force meeting.

Current MEd Sites

TxP2P maintains MEd Programs at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas (Pediatric) and Blackstock Clinic (Family Practice) in the Seton Healthcare Network in Austin, Scott & White Hospital (Pediatric) in Temple, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and Children's Medical Center in Dallas (Pediatric), and the Texas Tech Health Science Center (Pediatric) in Amarillo.

How to Set up MEd at Your Facility

The MEd Program curriculum can be individualized to benefit participants from a variety of training backgrounds including medicine, nursing, education, psychology, social work, allied health, home-visiting programs and others. In general, the program centers around a home visit and other experiential ways to enter the life of a family of a child with special health care needs. The specific combination of programs is customized to each MEd site.

For more information and details on establishing a MEd Program at your medical facility, contact Debbie Wiederhold at Debbie@TxP2P.org.



About Texas Parent to Parent

Headquartered in Austin and one of 33 Parent to Parent programs across the nation, Texas Parent to Parent (P2P) is a nonprofit of parent advocates committed to better lives for Texas children who have disabilities, chronic conditions and/or special healthcare needs. Parents and caregivers receive one-on-one support, resource referral and education to help their children. Since 2002, Texas P2P has helped more than 2,900 families.