

# Medical Education Program (MEd)

## *Specialized Training for Pediatric and Family Practice Residents and Students*

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 our [Medical Education \(MEd\) 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 Family Faculty 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 the Family Faculty teams 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 Interview. 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 and students with 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.

### **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

### **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 (Pediatric), and the Texas Tech Health Science Center (Pediatric) in Amarillo, Baylor College of Medicine at Children's Hospital of San Antonio (Pediatric), and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Medical Students from Texas A&M University, Round Rock Health Science Center.

### **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 Sherry Santa at [Sherry.Santa@txp2p.org](mailto:Sherry.Santa@txp2p.org).

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