Beyond Early Care and Education: Assuring the Health and Well-being of Young Children and Their Families

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My Background and Interests

- Adolescent Medicine specialty - research in adolescent reproductive health
- Appreciation for early intervention long-term impact
- Department Chair and participant in training residents
- Primary Care and Community-engaged Pediatrician
- AAP Leadership Role in solidifying ongoing collaborations and forging new ones in accomplishing AAP mission
Plan for Today

- Share information about AAP priorities and initiatives that are relevant to you
- Emphasize the importance of the health component in your work
- Help you connect health professionals to AAP state chapters, national efforts, and staff
- Ensure you know where to find our resources and how to obtain technical assistance from the AAP
AAP Mission

Attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. To accomplish this mission, the Academy shall support the professional needs of its members.
New Projects of Relevance to You!

Planning Phase

- **New Book** – *Managing Special Health Needs in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide*
- **Healthy Foster Care America** – Forum of national organizations implementing shared goals (based on Healthy Child Care America)
- **Oral Health** – Tool Kit and E-News
- **Surgeon General’s Conference** on Children, Families, and Disasters
New Projects of Relevance to You!

Implementation Phase

- **Mental Health** – Algorithms to identify, treat, and refer children with delays or disorders (separate flow charts for infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, school-age, etc)

- **Bright Futures** – A series of fact sheets for the child care audience on breastfeeding, healthy eating, physical activity, hand washing, caregivers as role models, and helping families access medical homes and community services
AAP/Child Care Bureau/MCHB Partnership

- **1996-2000 Healthy Child Care America Campaign**
- **2001-2004 Healthy Child Care America Program**
  - **Quality:** Strengthen regulations and standards
  - **Infrastructure:** Train child care health consultant trainers; strengthen state efforts to support and train child care health consultants
  - **Access:** Ensure a network and strategies to support child care programs to connect families to medical homes and community resources
- **2005-2010 Healthy Child Care America Partnerships**
AAP Child Care and Health Partnership Program

- Offer resources and strategies to strengthen early childhood, child care, and health partnerships
- Mobilize a group of pediatric child care experts to support the child care community through technical assistance to states
- Educate a broad group of AAP members, colleagues, and caregivers about their role in promoting quality early education/child care
In Support of Health

- 13 Quality Indicators of Quality Child Care by Richard Fiene, 2002 – most are health-based
- Yesterday, NACCRRA released a survey and 12-point national plan for a training system for child care providers - #1 focuses on required pre-service and in-service training that includes training in child development and health and safety topics
Medical Home

- An approach to providing health care services in a high-quality, comprehensive, cost-effective manner
- Provision of care through a primary care physician who partners with other professionals and the family
- Acts in children’s best interest to achieve maximum family potential through family-centered and quality improvement approach
Bright Futures is a philosophy and approach that is dedicated to the principle that every child deserves to be healthy and that optimal health involves a trusting relationship between the health professionals, the child, the family, and the community.

New Bright Futures Guidelines and Materials Available Soon!
Opportunities for Partnerships

To be most effective, health promotion must engage all of the players in concert.
Benefits of Partnering

- Efficient use of limited resources
- Establishment of a forum for problem solving
- Improved coordination of care
- Comprehensive care and increased wellness
- Enhanced efficiency for children and families
Health and Child Care Partnerships: Why Now?

- Focus on early childhood, pre-k, quality rating systems will help us move our agenda forward now
- Educational efforts re the medical home and early childhood development will help key stakeholders “get it”
- A strong health component supports a holistic approach and helps children reach their potential
- Health professional input can strengthen national policy
- The AAP can help!
How can we ensure that children receive quality child care and a medical home?

What resources does the AAP provide?
New Website Design

www.healthychildcare.org
Health Network to Support Change

- 250 Pediatric Child Care Experts (New Section)
- Pediatric leaders originally involved in Healthy Child Care America assigned to mentor others
- Newly appointed AAP Chapter Child Care Contacts in all states who can link national efforts to states
- A mechanism to maintain pediatric child care expertise and educate all 60,000+ AAP members on their role in
  - Supporting parents
  - Connecting with community child care programs/educating caregivers
  - Educating policymakers and advocating for quality child care
One stop medical home shopping!

The National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs provides support to physicians, families, and other medical and non-medical providers who care for children with special needs so that they have access to a medical home.

What is a 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 know and trust.

The pediatric health care professionals and parents act as partners in a medical home to identify and access all the medical and non-medical services needed to help children and their families achieve their maximum potential.

www.medicalhomeinfo.org

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Medical Home Resources

- Materials for a variety of audiences
- Examples of successful strategies
- Community-based efforts (for all children) as well as those related to children with special needs
- State medical home teams
- Technical assistance to states
- Funding opportunities related to a variety of health and other topic areas!
AAP Policy: Quality Early Education and Child Care From Birth to Kindergarten

- “the real barrier to high-quality programs is a lack of infrastructure supporting quality, regardless of setting, and the necessary funding to make this happen.”

- Pediatricians can serve as leaders or advocates in promoting quality early education and child care

- Through the Child Care and Health Partnership program, a network will be established to support the creation of this much-needed infrastructure
What Can You Do?

- Seek to have pediatricians, child care health consultants, and other health professionals involved at all levels in your initiatives
- Connect these individuals with the AAP early education and child care staff, Section on Early Education and Child Care, and AAP Chapter Child Care Contacts to ensure they are aware of and have access to AAP resources
- Need help identifying pediatricians to work with? Contact the AAP at 888/227-5409 or childcare@aap.org
Questions? Contact....

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