

Top 10 Things We Know About Young Children and Health Equity...

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THERE ARE PROVEN PROGRAMS ON WHICH TO BUILD.

There are many exemplary practices which have been initiated within the child health community which have shown success in responding to these social determinants and positively affecting children's health trajectories, but these are not yet incorporated into mainstream and routine practice.

There is impressive and growing evidence that comprehensive, preventive and developmental health services, which address both medical and socio-economic concerns of families, contribute to addressing some of the major concerns affecting children's growth and development by strengthening the family protective factors. This new vision is largely reflected in an array of innovative, research-based programs and practices established by both pediatric and community-based champions. These programs have demonstrated that they can improve young children's health trajectories by extending their responses to young children in vulnerable and stressed households and neighborhoods in ways that strengthen the safety, stability and nurturing in the home environment.

HOW THESE PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES REPRESENT A FIELD WITH NEW ELEMENTS OF PRACTICE

These programs and practices offer strong evidence of the ability to make significant contributions to young children's healthy development through responding to social as well as bio-medical determinates of health. While not silver bullets that eliminate physical, social, educational, and other health disparities, they contribute to that end. Specifically, these programs and practices show that when children are very young, the health practitioner, the health system and other systems that work with families can play a significant role as a point of first contact for families who need support in addressing social and environmental factors.

While they differ in terms of the child populations they serve and some of their particular emphases in providing services, these exemplary programs and practices share important characteristics related to their functional components, their underlying approaches and attributes.

At their core, most of these effective practices have three components: (1) increased practitioner surveillance, screening, and anticipatory guidance that focuses both on child and family issues; (2) further identification of specific family needs and opportunities for support through care coordination or targeted case management that is based on family ecology; and (3) effective referral and follow-up to both professional and community services and supports that ensure that at least some of the needs of the child and family are addressed. While some actions involve the child health practitioner's expertise, others require other skills and supports and move beyond many traditional notions of what constitutes a medical home. Many of these programs have also developed relationships with other child and family services that reach out and support vulnerable families.

Through the Health Equity and Young Children grant, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, twelve programs that are considered exemplary programs and practices came together to highlight common core areas in their practices. While each program is unique in how they are implemented, they have identified four core areas that are key in providing comprehensive and effective services to families: Family Engagement, Care Coordination, Community Linkages, and the use of a Health Equity Lens. Exemplary programs and practices have conducted evaluation on the effectiveness and impact of their programs. To read a brief description of each program [click here](#).

Additional Resources:

- Bruner, C., & Day, V. (2013). *Healthy Child Story Book: Policy Opportunities to Improve Children's Healthy Development*. (http://www.cfpciowa.org/documents/news/HealthyChildStoryBookMay2013_for_we_6B627FA18DBF5.pdf)
- Early Childhood Mental Health Toolkit: Integrating Mental Health Services into the Pediatric Medical Home. (2014) <http://www.ecmhatters.org/Pages/ECMHMatters.aspx>
- Hagan JF., Shaw JS., & Duncan P, eds. (2008). *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*, Third Edition. Pocket Guide. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. (http://brightfutures.aap.org/pdfs/bf3%20pocket%20guide_final.pdf)

Twelve Exemplary Programs and Practices



www.childfirst.org



<http://mihs.org/>



The Children's Clinic
"Serving Children & Their Families"

www.thechildrensclinic.org



<http://medical-legalpartnership.org/>



Florida
Maternal Infant & Early Childhood
Home Visiting Initiative

<http://www.flmiechv.com/>
<http://www.fleccsimpact.com/>



<http://www.ecmhatters.org/Pages/ECMHMatters.aspx>



<http://first5sandiego.org/healthy-development-services/>



<http://www.phcinc.net/>



<https://www.healthysteps.org/>



<https://dulcenational.org/>



<https://helpmegrownational.org/>



<https://www.seekwellbeing.org/>