

**Family Medicine Residency Program  
McMaster University**

**CARE OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

**GOALS**

Our primary goal in the residency program is to assist the learners in our program as they achieve their full potential in becoming fully competent family physicians. The learning in our program is always guided by the four principles of family medicine as stated by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

1. The family physician is an effective clinician.
2. The patient-physician relationship is central to the role of the family physician.
3. The family physician is a resource to a defined practice population.
4. Family medicine is a community-based discipline.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives for the hospital pediatric experience and for the pediatric component of the family medicine experience will be described as they relate to the four principles of family medicine.

- 1. The family physician is an effective clinician.**
  - 1.1\_ The resident will provide for children including neonates (term and pre-term) and adolescents in a variety of settings, including office, hospital ward and emergency room.
  - 1.2\_ The resident will demonstrate the ability to recognize and manage the common illnesses and deviation from health in children and adolescents, and will appreciate that the medical needs of children and adolescents are different that those of adults.
  - 1.3\_ The resident will demonstrate an understanding of normal growth and development, including behavioural and psychosocial aspects, family systems, and the cultural and social milieu which surround and influence the physician, the patient, the family and the illness.

- 1.4\_ The resident will demonstrate skill in recognizing the early signs of serious and life threatening disease in neonates, children and adolescents and will provide or arrange for appropriate and expeditious management of these problems.
- 1.5 The resident will demonstrate skill in the patient-centered clinical method, which involves demonstrating an understanding of the patients experience of illness and the impact of the illness on the lives of patients and their families.
- 1.6 The resident will demonstrate an understanding of critical analysis of the medical literature in order to utilize the best information available.
- 1.7 The resident will demonstrate an awareness of his or own strength and limitations and the ability to recognize when his or her own personal issues interfere with effective care. This includes the ability to assess and improve on persona knowledge, skills and attitudes.

**2. The patient/physician relationship is central to the role of the physician.**

- 2.1 The resident will demonstrate an awareness of the patient's and the family's response to illness.
- 2.2 The resident will demonstrate the attributes of warmth, caring, compassion and empathy within the context of a professional interpersonal relationship.
- 2.3 The resident will demonstrate the continuing care of patients involving repeated patient/physician interactions over time.
- 2.4 The resident will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with children and adolescents, using understandable terminology.
- 2.5 The resident will demonstrate respect for the autonomy of patients and will appropriately balance the needs of parents with those of pediatric patients.
- 2.6 The resident will demonstrate adherence to sound ethical principles of beneficence and non-maleficence in all interactions with patients.

**3. The family physician is a resource to a defined practice population.**

- 3.1 The resident will demonstrate effective strategies for the maintenance of self-directed life long learning regarding issues pertaining to children and adolescents.
- 3.2 The resident will demonstrate an ability to organize a practice to promote maintenance of health and recognition of risk factors for illness. This will include demonstration of good record keeping pertaining to children and adolescents.

4. **Family Medicine is a community based discipline**

4.1 The resident will demonstrate an ability to see himself or herself as part of a community network of healthcare providers and will demonstrate the skills of working collaboratively with such providers outside the practice environment. This includes public health services, homecare services, school health programs, social and psychological services and facilities for children and adolescents with special needs.

4.2 Since the clinical problems that present to a community based physician are not preselected and are often undifferentiated, the resident will demonstrate skill at dealing with ambiguity and uncertainty.