

PACER Center's Parents And Residents Together Program (PART) *Information for Parents*

A project of PACER Center for parents of children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities, and medical doctors

What is the Parents And Residents Together (PART) program?

- PART is a program to help parents and physicians learn from each other about the care of children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities.
- PACER Center brings together University of Minnesota Pediatric and Med-Peds resident doctors on their developmental-behavioral rotation with families of children and youth with special health care needs.
- University of Minnesota resident physicians have an opportunity to meet in a family's home and discuss the challenges families and youth face as they strive to become integrated in their communities and schools.
- Parents and youth have the opportunity to share their stories, find validation, and teach physicians what works and what doesn't work for them in a clinical setting. Parents and youth also learn how to advocate for themselves.
- Both families and physicians learn the need for collaboration, the importance of a team approach to medical care, and how they can best work together to improve health outcomes for their children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities.
- PART's goal is to improve the effectiveness of communication between parents and physicians.



The logistics:

- PACER recruits a group of parents to participate in a training.
- University of Minnesota resident doctors on their adolescent rotation participate in three activities during their month-long rotation, including an orientation session, the family visit, and a review session. Residents on their developmental behavioral rotation learn about resources available to families, care coordination, medical home, and the impact of having a child with special needs.

How can I become involved?

If you are the parent of a child or youth with special health care needs and disabilities, and are interested in hosting a home visit with a University of Minnesota resident physician, please contact Linda Goldman Cherwitz at (952) 838-9000 or email: linda.cherwitz@PACER.org.