

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Healthy Children

Summer 2007

Probiotics

What's New in
Infant Formula

Type 2 Diabetes

Is Your Child
at Risk?

Child Care

Make the
Right Choice
for Your Family

Keeping the
Internet
Safe
for Your
Family

Waiting Room Copy

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Keeping Promises to Children

As a parent, you know how important it is to teach children the value of keeping their promises. That is every bit as important when it comes to adults — including your pediatrician — in keeping our promise to ensure the optimal health and well being for all children.

I'm pleased to announce that your pediatrician, as a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), has renewed the commitment to America's Promise: Alliance for Youth, as it launches its 10th anniversary year.

America's Promise was created as a result of the 1997 President's Summit for America's Future, where Presidents Clinton, Bush, Carter, and Ford, with Nancy Reagan representing President Reagan, challenged America to make children a national priority. The presidents affirmed our special obligation as Americans to keep five essential promises to young people: **caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education, and opportunities to help others.**

Retired Gen. Colin L. Powell became the Alliance's founding chairman. Today, his wife Alma Powell serves as chair of the Alliance, which has grown to become the nation's largest private-public partnership committed to ensuring that every child receives the fundamental resources contained in the "Five Promises."

Joining the AAP in this dynamic, results-oriented alliance are organizations that represent all strands from the rich fabric of American life: corporations, nonprofits, higher education and faith-based groups, associations and federal agencies, and community groups.

Last November, the Alliance released the results of a study conducted to determine the measurable changes that occur when children receive the Five Promises. It found that when youth are provided with at least four out of five fundamental resources, their life chances for success dramatically increase, and damaging gaps separating low-income and minority youth from other youth are significantly reduced.

Improvements were seen in early school readiness; high school completion rates; college or post-secondary enrollment; math and English proficiency; juvenile crime; drug and alcohol abuse; child crime-victim rates; childhood suicide; teen pregnancy; and young people's civic engagement. Unfortunately, the data also showed that more than two-thirds of our youth are not receiving enough of these resources to benefit from their full effects.

As pediatricians, we want all parents to know that we are your partners in helping to make sure that children have everything they need for a safe, healthy, and productive life.

We also hope that you find this issue of *Healthy Children* informative and useful.

Jay E. Berkelhamer, M.D., FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics is updating its award-winning publication, "Caring for Your Baby and Young Child, Birth to Age 5" and would like to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey and share your thoughts by going to www.aap.org/healthychildren. All responses received by September 7, 2007, will be entered into a drawing for a publication gift pack.



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The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

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IFC Welcome

Dr. Jay Berkelhamer, AAP president, welcomes you to AAP's authoritative resource for parents.

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The American Academy of Pediatrics would like to thank  GOOD START NATURAL CULTURES for their sponsorship of this issue of *Healthy Children*.