

On the Terminology of Adolescent/Adolescence

In 1972 the American Academy of Pediatrics stated that the purview of pediatrics begins in the period prior to birth when conception is apparent and continues to age 21 years. The Committee on Adolescence believes that the terminology used in all Academy materials should be changed to reflect the pediatrician's expanded role.

The words "infant," "child," "adolescent," and "young adult" connote different images which, in turn, provoke the age-specific response. The Committee on Adolescence recommends that all references to pediatric patients give proper semantic recognition to infants, children, and adolescents, and that the Academy adopt the policy that the term "child" should no longer be

used for all age groups. The words "youth," "adolescent," or "adolescence" should be used when referring to those between puberty and maturity.

COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENCE, 1977-78

Michael I. Cohen, M.D., Chairman; Frank E. Dudenhofer, M.D.; Andrew D. Guthrie, Jr., M.D.; S. L. Hammar, M.D.; Felix P. Heald, M.D.; Adele D. Hofmann, M.D.; William A. Long, Jr., M.D.; Jerome T. Y. Shen, M.D.; Martin G. Wolfish, M.D.; Renee R. Jenkins, M.D. (Candidate Member); Martin P. Wasserman, M.D. (Candidate Member)

Liaison Representative: Hilary E. C. Millar, M.D., Health Services Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

On the Terminology of Adolescent/Adolescence
Committee on Adolescence
Pediatrics 1978;62;838

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/62/5/838>

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
<http://www.aappublications.org/site/misc/Permissions.xhtml>

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
<http://www.aappublications.org/site/misc/reprints.xhtml>

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



PEDIATRICS®

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

On the Terminology of Adolescent/Adolescence

Committee on Adolescence

Pediatrics 1978;62;838

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/62/5/838>

Pediatrics is the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. A monthly publication, it has been published continuously since 1948. Pediatrics is owned, published, and trademarked by the American Academy of Pediatrics, 345 Park Avenue, Itasca, Illinois, 60143. Copyright © 1978 by the American Academy of Pediatrics. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 1073-0397.

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

