

How Special Is Your Child?



Special enough to be cared for by a doctor who only sees children and youth?
Special enough to be cared for by a physician trained and experienced in the physical, mental, emotional, and social development of children and youth?

Special enough to be cared for as a child, not as a small adult?

Special enough to be cared for by a doctor who has had 3 to 6 years of pediatric training after medical school and has passed rigorous tests to be certified as a pediatrician?

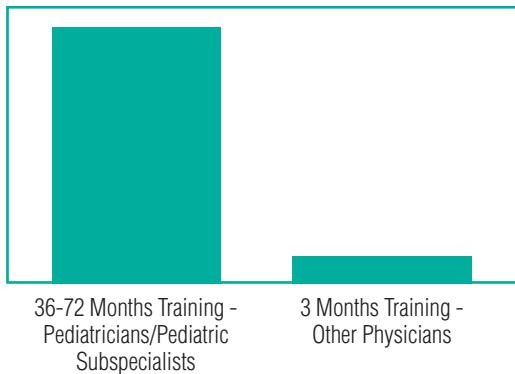
Special enough to be treated with respect as an individual and as a person entitled to special care?

If you answered yes to all the above, WELCOME, You've come to the right place.

Your Child Deserves the Best in Pediatric Primary Care and Pediatric Subspecialty Care

Pediatricians spend as much as 3 to 6 years in pediatric training after medical school. That equals up to 24 times more training in the care of children than other physicians who receive an average of 3 additional months of pediatric training after medical school.

More Training in Caring for Children



Cutting Edge Knowledge

Pediatricians see only children and youth. Constant changes in medicine can make it difficult to stay up to date. Pediatricians stay current by concentrating their efforts on changes in medicine affecting children.

Quality Primary Care

Pediatricians are trained to provide comprehensive care for children, including preventive care. Pediatricians often work in teams with other professionals, including nurse practitioners, to provide high-quality, cost-effective primary care. High-quality care leads to better outcomes for children and reduced costs for families and society.

Quality Pediatric Subspecialty Care

Pediatric subspecialists have an additional 24 to 36 months of in-depth fellowship training in addition to their 36 to 48 months of pediatric residency, concentrating on clinical and research aspects of specific areas of diseases of children and youth. A child's heart, lungs, kidneys, gastrointestinal system, and nervous system can have different problems than those organs of adults. Children with such problems may require referral by their pediatrician to pediatric medical and surgical subspecialists who have the training and knowledge to take care of these SPECIAL problems in the best manner possible.

Pediatricians Specialize in the Care of Children and Youth

Pediatricians are trained to:

- *Help* you determine healthy lifestyles for your child and useful ways to role model your choices.
- *Offer* advice to prevent illness and injuries.
- *Provide* early and appropriate care of acute illness to prevent its progression.
- *Treat* life-threatening childhood conditions requiring intensive care.
- *Guide* you in anticipating your child's needs from newborn to 21.

Experience

As part of their extensive training, pediatricians are experienced in the physical, emotional, and social development of children. Children may be too young or shy to talk so pediatricians understand the importance of listening carefully to your child, and to you. Pediatricians answer your questions, helping you to understand and promote your child's healthy development. Pediatricians also address issues affecting a child's family and home environment.

Pediatricians understand that children are not simply small adults.

They often present different symptoms from adults. They may need different prescriptions or treatments than adults. Pediatricians are specially trained to recognize the importance of these differences, especially with young children and newborns.

Pediatricians Are Great Advocates!

The American Academy of Pediatrics is highly respected for its child advocacy work. The Academy works to:

- Assure universal health care for all children from birth to 21 years and for all pregnant women.
- See that all immunizations are fully paid for by state and private insurance.
- Reduce the number of intentional and unintentional injuries, including those associated with alcohol and substance abuse.
- Promote healthy lifestyles for children and adolescents.
- Promote health education in schools.
- Increase access to health care for all children, including those with special needs and the homeless.
- Assure health and safety standards in child care settings.

By selecting a Board-Certified Pediatrician, you will have chosen the highest level of medical care for your child.

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.

From your doctor

**American Academy
of Pediatrics**



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 57,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

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