

Principles of Practice of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

A child or adolescent and the family may expect the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist to:

- Have as primary concerns the welfare and optimal development of the child or adolescent assessed in the context of the family, school, and community, based upon scientific knowledge and collective and personal experience;
- Foster the unique and nurturing relationships among the child or adolescent and the parents/care givers and the family;
- Recognize the child's or adolescent's need for the support of adults;
- Avoid all actions which may have a detrimental effect on the optimal development of the child;
- Use a unique relationship with the child or adolescent and family to foster their well-being and optimal development;
- Promote, by all appropriate means, the uniqueness of the individual;
- Seek to develop with the child or adolescent as thorough an understanding as possible of the child and adolescent psychiatrist's role, opinions, conclusions, and recommendations;
- Protect specific confidences of the child or adolescent and the parents or guardians and others involved, unless this course would involve untenable risks or jeopardize care-giving responsibility;
- Seek to develop with those involved in the care and/or treatment of the child or adolescent (parents or guardians, and where appropriate, the family, teacher, school, court, correctional agency, physician, and others) as thorough an understanding as possible of the child and adolescent psychiatrist's role, opinions, conclusions, and recommendations;
- Help the child or adolescent to recognize the influence of the patient's relationship to family members and the consequences of the patient's decisions;
- Help the family members resolve differences in their views of professional judgments or recommendations;
- Avoid acting solely as an agent of the parents, guardians, or agencies;
- Maintain the integrity of professional judgments and behaviors independent of influence of the source of compensation

(Adapted from CODE OF ETHICS, May 16, 1982)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
CHILD & ADOLESCENT
PSYCHIATRY