

AAP NEWS

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AAP News, the official newsmagazine of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is dedicated to informing, educating and inspiring readers on matters related to pediatric health care.

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SECOND OPINIONS

Know the facts

This is in reply to the letter by Dr. Kreider in the January issue of *AAP News*. Gun control is a polarizing issue for this country; I guess it shouldn't be any different for our organization. If you are going to debate, you need to know the facts:

1. The Second Amendment to the Constitution states: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." What does this mean? I agree with former Chief Justice Warren Burger, who wrote, "The real purpose of the Second Amendment was to ensure that the 'state armies' – 'the militia' – would be maintained for the defense of the state ... The very language of the Second Amendment refutes any argument that it was intended to guarantee every citizen an unfettered right to any kind of weapon he or she desires."

2. I suspect that the National Rifle Association was the source for Dr. Kreider's statement that "Guns are used far more often to prevent crimes of violence than in the commission of crimes." Studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* have shown that: a) A gun in the home is 43 times more likely to kill a family member or friend than it is to be used to kill an intruder. b) The presence of a gun in the home increases the likelihood of homicide in that home almost threefold and of suicide fivefold.

3. Finally, Dr. Kreider states, "Households headed by women are often only able to defend themselves with handguns." The FBI Supplementary Homicide Report stated that "In 1992, 73 females were victims of handgun homicide for every female who used a handgun in a justifiable homicide."

If Dr. Kreider believes that the FBI and the *New England Journal* are sources of "misinformation ... deliberately planted," then Buffalo Springfield was right: Paranoia strikes deep!

H.F. Brainard, M.D., FAAP
Manistee, Mich.

PORTRAIT



M. Prall

Strut your stuff

This toddler has no qualms about showing off a few dance moves.

Dear Colleague:

The American Academy of Pediatrics is pleased to announce a new and unique "live" continuing medical education opportunity in New York City.

SUPER CME 2000

ADVANCE AND THRIVE IN PEDIATRICS AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY NEW YORK, NEW YORK • JUNE 22-25, 2000



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In today's changing health care environment, it's crucial that you keep up to date with the current trends in child health while improving your clinical and caregiving skills. That's why we're introducing Super CME 2000.

Designed for you, the busy pediatric professional, this exciting conference will provide insights into the latest developments in child health, practice management, and advocacy.

With emphasis on Advance and Thrive in Pediatrics, Super CME 2000 will offer unique benefits to its attendees

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- Specialized content areas in advocacy and practice management to provide you insight into the latest trends
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Plus,

- You can earn valuable CME credit by attending this event.

Whether you're a general pediatrician, physician just starting a career in pediatrics, or a pediatric resident, Super CME 2000 in New York City has something for you!

To receive more information about this unique educational opportunity, simply complete the attached information request form and return it to the Academy.

I look forward to seeing you in New York, June 22-25, 2000, at the New York Hilton and Towers!

Sincerely,

Robert Perelman, MD, FAAP
Director
Department of Education

Yes, I want more information about this exciting educational opportunity.

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