

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

Elian and custody disputes

Custody disputes are never pretty. As health care professionals interested in prevention (of both physical and mental health problems), our goal is to prevent custody disputes.

The circumstances (in the Elian Gonzalez custody dispute) were quite unusual. Obviously tensions were very high. I object vehemently to the use of firearms to resolve the dispute. Permission has now been granted for others with custody disputes to use guns to solve the problem. The party with the most guns wins.

The raid was short? So was Columbine. No one was hurt? I'm not so sure that is an accurate description. In any case, divine intervention seems to have assisted in assuring that no one was killed. There seems to be plenty of hurt.

A child belongs with his parent(s)? We all know that this is nice but not necessarily in the best interest of the child. How many of you have participated in the removal of a child from parental custody? I've lost count of the number of times I have had to do that.

Are you wailing and moaning about a 6-year-old boy living in social chaos who takes a gun to school and shoots a 6-year-old girl to death? Consider the message of this raid.

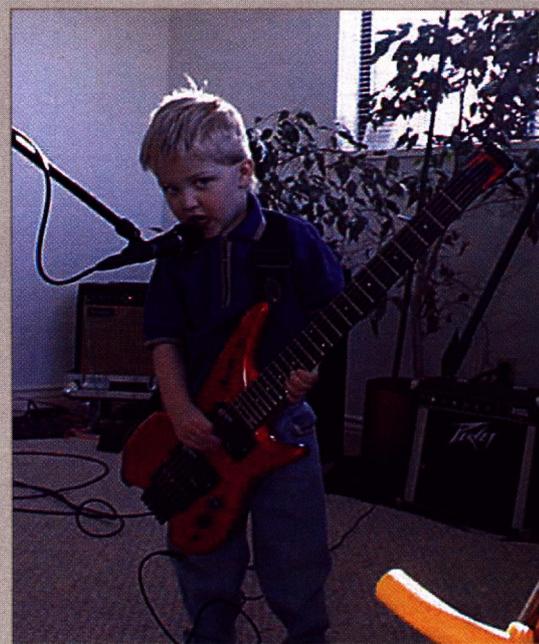
I make no statement about which party should have custody of the child. The case is too complicated. I object to the use of firearms.

I call upon the Academy to issue a statement condemning the use of firearms to retrieve this child. Solve the problem without the guns.

If you want to talk about violence, now is the time.

Murray Katcher, M.D., FAAP
Madison, Wis.

PORTRAIT



Jam session

Making music comes naturally to this youngster, who belts out his favorite tunes.

Dear Colleague:

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



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

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.

5 easy ways to request more information

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Fax
847/228-5059 or 847/228-5097

E-mail
cme@aap.org

Internet
Visit the Academy's Web site:
www.aap.org

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

- Cutting-edge clinical sessions to enable you to provide high-quality care to your patients
- Hands-on, technique-based workshops and Meet-the-Expert discussion groups to help you enhance and refine your practical skills
- Technology-computer training sessions to educate you about parent resources on the Internet
- Practice management seminars to give you the advice and guidance you need to practice in today's challenging environment
- Specialized content areas in advocacy and practice management to provide you insight into the latest trends
- Networking and social events that will allow you to share ideas and insights with your colleagues
- Family-oriented events designed to assist you in balancing career with family and personal life
- 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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