



SENG

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November 30, 2011

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American Academy of Pediatrics

141 Northwest Point Blvd

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Dear American Academy of Pediatrics:

As members of the Board of Directors of SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted) and the SENG Health Care Professional Advisory Committee, we wish to express our concern about an omission in the statement of the American Academy of Pediatrics concerning "ADHD: Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity in Children and Adolescents" (*Pediatrics*, 2011, Vol. 128 (5), November, pp. 1-17). We would like to urge AAP to recommend to pediatricians they consider the critical issue that intellectually gifted children, particularly when they are educationally misplaced, often can show behaviors that resemble ADHD.

There is a reasonable amount of professional literature supporting the need for physicians to consider intellectual giftedness. Attached are examples of relevant references. However, the ADHD rating scales have not yet incorporated this consideration into their manuals, and the DSM only mentions it in passing. Our opinion is that a substantial number of intellectually gifted children are being incorrectly diagnosed as having ADHD.

We are a national nonprofit organization composed of parents, educators, and health care professionals who work regularly with gifted children, and we appreciate your consideration of this issue. We would be pleased if you would publicize this official concern in whatever ways are appropriate.

Sincerely,

James T. Webb, Ph.D., ABPP-CI
Clinical Psychologist
Chair, Professional Advisory Committee

Marianne Kuzujanakis, M.D., M.P.H
Director and Medical Liaison

Rosina M. Gallagher, Ph.D., NCSP
School Psychologist and Board President