

College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Study Group Report

At the 1987 Annual Session of the Academy, a program was sponsored by the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Attendance was limited to the College and each participant paid a fee.

Following the annual breakfast meeting, a lecture was presented by David Elkind entitled *The teenager's reality*. Elkind is a professor of child development and a research scholar at Tufts University. An international authority on children, his research has been in the area of perceptual, cognitive, and social development, building on the work of Piaget. Elkind has lectured extensively in scientific circles and has appeared on the television programs *Today*, *20/20*, and *Donahue*. He is best known for his books, *The Hurried Child: Growing Up Too Fast and Too Soon*, and *All Grown Up and No Place to Go: Teenagers in Crisis*.

Following the lecture, three groups of Diplomates met in workshop sessions for the remainder of the morning to discuss the implications of Elkind's address for pediatric dentists. Each of the workshop groups was supported by a New Orleans-based mental health professional working with adolescents.

The three workshops were organized around the themes, *Psychosocial pathology and developmental task in the adolescent*, *Adolescence and the health professional*, and *Parenting the adolescent*. Each workshop was moderated by a member of the College. This special section includes the Elkind lecture and reports from the three workshops.

Several years ago, Samuel D. Harris, a past-president of the Academy, made a major financial gift to the College of Diplomates, specifically to fund such programs. Continuing gifts from Dr. Harris and other members of the Academy plus a special registration fee paid by the Diplomates make this annual special program of the College possible. As a consequence of this effort, the information presented and discussed in the study groups is made available to all members of the Academy through *Pediatric Dentistry*.

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