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Cover: Two Young Girls at the Piano, by Pierre August RENOIR (© 1989
The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Robert Lehman Collection, 1975.
(1975.1.201)). Two Young Girls at the Piano is one of at least five versions
of the same scene by Renoir, including a lovely pastel recently sold at
auction. Renoir was 51 years of age at the time he did this work
in 1892, and at the height of his popularity. This lovely presentation evokes a former
era when adolescents, at least those in favored economic status,
spent their leisure learning skills such as playing the piano and singing. One of
the major tasks of adolescence is to develop one’s identity and sense of
competence. Whether it is the charming skills so beautifully depicted in this
painting or others, the task of pediatricians is to assist young people in
developing skills of which they can be proud.

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