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The Cover: Art covers have been well received by other medical journals, but Pediatrics in Review, by using only pictures of children, can provide a special focus for pediatricians interested in the art of children. The cover painting by George Catlin (1796–1872), Strutting Pigeon (1844), is in the National Museum of American Art (a gift of Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Jr.), Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC, and is reproduced with their permission. In this PREP year, 1986–1987, child development and behavior are key topics for review. The development of native American children was little noticed or recorded except by artists. Catlin had a real concern for survival of the customs and concern of American Indians. He wanted to show that American Indians had the same feelings of love and compassion for their children as other humans. The picture should remind us that all of the world's cultures have concern for the development of their children's full potential.

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Behavior Change Due to Parental Problems

impact on a child than one might imagine. A second concept is that parental problems rarely occur in a vacuum. The preexisting state of the child and family, the severity, duration, and frequency of the parental problem, and the child and family's reaction to the parental problem all interact with one another to influence the child's ongoing reaction. The principles of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention are crucial in determining the type of intervention. A third concept is the crucial nature of a long-term relationship in helping children and their families. Many serious problems take years, rather than weeks, to resolve. Developing a trusting relationship over time with the parents before a major problem has developed facilitates the exploration of difficult problems during difficult times. When parents are in the midst of their problems, they may be exceedingly defensive about the nature of the problem and its impact on their child. Continuing with the relationship may make the difference between a brief inter-

vention which does not really work and a long-term interaction which has permanent and positive results.

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