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## PEDIATRIC OFFICES OF:

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## SETTING THE STAGE FOR CREATIVITY

- Provide materials that develop imagination like stories, fairy tales, folk tales, myths, nature books and drawings. Develop an interest in reading by discussing the books and doing activities like visiting the library.
- Allow time for daydreaming, free-time or taking a different look at things. This encourages brain development and an appreciation for the world around them.
- Encourage children to record their ideas in notebooks or papers. You could play secretary for your child and write down the stories they tell. This is a special way to show your child that their ideas are valuable and that you care about their thoughts.
- Encourage individuality. Work to find little details about your child's work or behavior that makes him feel special or unique.
- Encourage originality by helping your child to create with wood, clay or other material. Be cautious about editing your child's products. Teach him the worth of being a creator.
- Encourage your child to play with words by using games like rhyming, opposites and puns.
- Encourage questions and help your child find answers in books or other sources. This helps self confidence.
- Provide opportunities for your child to sense problems and create possible solutions without fear of making mistakes.
  Help them value their own thinking, learn from their mistakes and encourage them to try again.
- Learn and reinforce thinking processes that go into the act of creating.
- Encourage a variety of experiences and interests in activities and hobbies.
- Foster good work habits by helping your child plan their work and following through to complete the plan.
- Find time for the family to talk together about a variety of subjects. Help your child join in and express themselves.

The future is in their hands, but for now they are in yours!

Let love, understanding and nurturing be your greatest gifts to them!