

## **Pediatric Statement (to both patients and parents...)**

As a pediatric office, we have a lot of jobs:

To make sure you are growing and developing on schedule,

To provide vaccinations to help protect you from illness,

To be there when you are sick – in order to help you heal and get strong again.

One of our other important jobs is to help you grow from being “kids” to being “adults.”

We think that this last job is really important, and we consider us all a team to accomplish this goal, you, your parents, and your doctor.

### **Here is how we are going to do it:**

- Starting at age 12, we will start to talk about giving you some independence and privacy during your visits to the doctor.

(don't worry: you will have the chance to ask health questions on your own- but you will still be able to get as much help as you need from the adults in your life.)

As you grow and get more comfortable with this, you will be able to learn more and more about being in charge of your own body and your own health.

- When you reach the age of 18, you will be able to make decisions for yourself. This doesn't mean that you are on your own, you will still have family and friend to support you and help you when you want it, but you will need to approve us to communicate with others in most circumstances.

We are looking forward to growing along with you.