Nearly 10 million children take prescription medications in the United States for at least 3 months. Nearly 94% of adverse drug events were avoided by implementing a pediatric pharmacist. Making up 24% of the population, children represent the future. Children can comprehend medical information respective to their cognitive development.

### Special Population

- **Children are constantly growing and developing.**
- **Children require more intricate drug dosing.**
- **Pediatric dosing is more susceptible to errors.**
- **Children lack fully developed organs to buffer medication errors.**

### Special Communication

- **Sensorimotor Stage**
  Birth to 2 years old; too young to effectively communicate medical information

- **Preoperational Stage**
  Ages 2-7 years old; understands medication safety, importance, and directions for use

- **Concrete Operational Stage**
  Ages 7-12 years old; understands medication security, ingredients, drug-action/onset, and specification

- **Formal Operational Stage**
  Ages 13-18 years old; understands prescription versus over-the-counter, drug dependency/addiction, dosage forms, drug interactions, and brand versus generic

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Based on an original article by Madelyn Mays in BU Well Volume 3

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Created by Madelyn Mays and Tara Miller
