



THE OFFICIAL NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

AAP News

Volume 34 • Number 11
November 2013
www.aapnews.org

In Memoriam

Dr. Kennell, promoted newborn bonding and attachment



Dr. Kennell

A leader in changes to the birth experience for newborns and mothers, **John H. Kennell, M.D., FAAP**, of Cleveland, died Aug. 27. He was 91.

Dr. Kennell's work led to improved care for newborns and their mothers and launched changes in delivery room procedures, ensuring more family time immediately after birth. His observations in the 1950s and 1960s were published in the text, *Maternal-Infant Bonding*, which he authored with Marshall H. Klaus, M.D., FAAP. Many neonatal intensive care units later incorporated these practices to allow parents the opportunity to hold their infants who die at birth. Dr. Kennell would go on to publish texts on the positive aspects of trained labor companions in childbirth, and co-founded Doulas of North America to train and certify labor support companions.

He served as Ambulatory Pediatrics Association president in 1970-'71 and was Northern Ohio Pediatric Society president in 1986-'87. In 1984, the Academy honored Dr. Kennell and Dr. Klaus with the C. Andersen Aldrich Award in Child Development. Dr. Kennell also received the Pediatrician of the Year Award from the Ohio Chapter in 1995.

Dr. Kennell served in the U.S. Navy from 1947-'49. After earning his M.D. from University of Rochester School of Medicine, he completed his pediatric residency and served as chief resident at Children's Hospital Medical Center, Boston, in 1951. He most recently served as professor emeritus of pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, a daughter, two sons and five grandchildren.