

Ask the EXPERT 2016



3 KID-FRIENDLY REASONS TO CHOOSE A PEDIATRIC DENTIST OVER A GENERAL DENTIST

It's a complicated world for today's parents. Critical decisions await mom and dad around every corner as they try to navigate through the process of raising happy, healthy kids.

One such decision – whether to take their child to a pediatric or general dentist – should be clear cut according to one local specialist. Dr. Kami Hoss still remembers how he felt as a young patient sitting nervously in the oversized chair at his parent's dentist. Anxious and scared, he says those early visits defined his path to creating a new experience for young patients.

Now the co-owner of The Super Dentists, Dr. Hoss and his wife, Dr. Keri, and their team of experts offer pediatric dentistry, orthodontic care, teeth whitening, Invisalign, Invisalign Teen, invisible braces and the latest accelerated braces technologies to their patients. Located across Oceanside, Chula Vista, East Lake and San Diego, they do so inside office environments fit for kids of any age. "Kids are actually excited to come to the dentist now," Dr. Hoss said.

Read on for three reasons why.

Pediatric Dentists Are Specialized

Pediatric dentists are specifically trained to treat children's developing teeth and potential issues. This can include gum problems, cavities, tooth decay and crowding of the teeth.

"All they do is see kids," Dr. Hoss said of pediatric dentists. "They are not only very good at everything related to the technical dental needs of the child, but they are also great at understanding child behavior and working with children who have special needs."

Pediatric practitioners are also focused on preventive dental health, which includes educating parents on the importance of flossing and twice-daily brushing. They have the latest information on preventive treatments and are able to position a child for a lifetime of healthy dental habits.

"There are a lot of things that parents don't realize they can be doing to really make a positive difference in their child's dental and overall health," Dr. Hoss said.

The Equipment Isn't As Scary!

"You think kids are scared of the dentist? Well guess what? - Many general dentists are scared of

kids too," smiled Dr. Hoss. Pediatric dental offices like The Super Dentists have specialists with years of training treating children and also use smaller equipment specifically designed for a child's mouth to create a completely different experience.

"We have flavored gloves and equipment that isn't as intimidating as what you'll find in a general dentist's office," Dr. Hoss said. "And we can use lasers a lot of times instead of drills. These things make a big difference to kids."

Additionally, Dr. Hoss and his staff are experts in easing their pediatric patients into an appointment or exam. "We take it one step at a time and show them the equipment we will be using," Dr. Hoss said. "This helps keep down their nerves."

As for that oversized chair from his childhood?

"That's my first memory," he laughed. "Our practice and many other pediatric offices have much smaller chairs that are perfect for kids."

A Kid-Friendly Experience

Specialized dental practices for kids are generally brightly colored with special touches to make your child feel like he or she is in a comfortable place. The more relaxed your child feels before the appointment, the smoother the entire visit is likely to go.

It is crucial for dentists to establish a friendly relationship with children to combat fears and to deliver effective treatment.

Dr. Hoss and The Super Dentists have mastered the art of fostering an inclusive environment.

"We don't just pop up a couple of video games and hope the kids have a good experience," Dr. Hoss said. "We always take it one step beyond. From our educational movies to our community presentations, and all the way down to the language we use, we are transforming the dental experience for kids."

Visit www.thesuperdentists.com to find a location near you.

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