

Children's Dental Care Philosophy of Dentistry for Referring Provider's Reference:

First of all, we seek to provide compassionate and individualized high quality care for each patient. Establishing connection and trust with patient and parent is essential and leads to open and candid conversations at each stage of treatment.

In our philosophy of pediatric dentistry this plays out by employing a balanced and blended approach to utilize all the treatment options and tools we have at our disposal as they fit each patient's needs and values. Empowering patients and parents to understand why we do what we do and giving them options so they can be involved in their child's care and make informed decisions is very important.

We seek to begin with the most definitive and optimal treatment options when possible and adapt as necessary depending on behavior and each patient's individual needs. We highly regard the important role we have to give children positive dental experiences from a young age and set them up for a lifetime of positive associations with dentistry as well as oral health.

You may be interested in some of the specifics of how this plays out. It would be impossible and far too lengthy to give all perspectives on this, but below is our general perspective and approach. We are happy to discuss specifics and walk through this more comprehensively through conversation.

Preventive and medicinal treatments such as SDF can be wonderful interim options for very young patients and patients with special needs. SDF is also a great initial treatment option for early enamel lesions on primary and permanent teeth to slow down or even halt disease progression and can be a fantastic option for primary teeth with caries that are soon to exfoliate. We utilize it regularly for these purposes.

However, many patients have more extensive disease that requires restorative treatment. We always prefer to begin with the most definitive and appropriate option for the situation and adapt from there. This plays out in many ways but generally we recommend beginning with restorative techniques that are well studied and high quality (composite restorations, stainless steel crowns, anterior esthetic crowns) along with safe and effective behavior management techniques such as "tell, show, do" and nitrous oxide inhalation. If this approach is not successful or possible due to patient behavior or fear, then we seek to employ the many minimally invasive techniques at our disposal (i.e. SDF, Hall Crowns). If a patient's needs are greater than these combined approaches are able to accommodate, then we have another tool that we can utilize and that is General Anesthesia at the hospital or IV deep sedation in the office. This is a huge benefit to our patients and allows for comprehensive rehabilitation with no negative effects on perceptions of dental treatment and future behavior. It is a safe and effective way to manage Early Childhood Caries in a way that treats disease, prevents future infection, pain, early tooth loss, and all the subsequent negative effects that dental disease has on the developing and permanent dentition.

For our referring doctors, we want to emphasize the collaborative nature of our relationship. Each child, parent, and situation is unique and as I have emphasized previously there is much value in working together to accomplish the optimal approach to benefit our patients. Do not hesitate to reach out for clarification or questions regarding all discussed in this explanation or for individual patients and situations. And finally, thank you for entrusting us with the care of your patients.