



Dear Parents,

My childhood experiences as the son of a teacher influenced my decision to pursue pediatric dentistry. I witnessed the joy and enthusiasm my mother experienced as an early childhood educator for twenty-seven years. Every time my mother goes to church, the grocery store, or even the little league baseball field, appreciative students and their families approach her to thank her. Even now, years after her students have grown up and had children of their own, they return to thank my mother for her commitment to their education.

Following in my mom's example, I spent two years teaching 4th and 8th grade science here in Houston with Teach For America. The time I spent in the classroom shaped and confirmed my passion to work closely with children and teenagers for my lifetime. Through my years as an educator, I learned how to tailor my attention and skills to meet the needs of the individual child. My approach fosters a positive environment where children feel safe and respected.

Dentistry combines what I most love about teaching, the opportunity to impart knowledge and skills to children, with my passion for treating people with care and kindness. It is my goal to equip your child with the tools to maintain good oral hygiene and ensure that they enjoy visiting the dentist. My experience as a teacher enhanced my understanding of children and, combined with my clinical expertise, it enables me to focus on how to best care for your child. It is a privilege to join you in encouraging your children to develop healthy habits that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

I strive to be a resource for you and to develop a lasting relationship with your children. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions you have about your child's oral health. It is my pleasure to be a part of your children's lives as their pediatric dentist.

Sincerely,

Adam C Shisler



Dear Parents,

Working with children has always been a fundamental part of my life. What began as babysitting for friends of my family progressed to working in my church's daycare. These experiences evolved into working in a mentorship program at Texas A&M University. While a student at Texas A&M, I was given the opportunity to advise and advocate for underprivileged children. It was through this journey that I realized advocating for a child's needs had to play an integral role in my professional path.

While attending dental school, I volunteered with many organizations benefitting children including Give Kids a Smile, the Health Museum's Teddy Bear Check-up, Special Olympics, and YMCA health fairs. These experiences cemented my passion for working with children in dentistry, affirming my desire to pursue advanced specialty training in pediatric dentistry.

During my time in residency, I was able to confirm my values in caring for children. My philosophy is built upon creating oral health through positive dental experiences and education. I believe achieving these goals starts with building a strong relationship between child, parent, and dentist. I also understand that every child is unique, and therefore believe a child's care should be tailored to his or her personality. An individualized approach to each child's oral healthcare establishes the trust necessary for successful dental treatment.

Through my experiences with children, I am positive that pediatric dentistry is the greatest profession and I hold an immense amount of pride and honor in being a pediatric dental specialist. Thank you for allowing me to be an advocate for your child's oral health.

Sincerely,

Brenden E. Taylor



Dear Parents,

For me, it is clear: I love being around kids. I find them funny, entertaining, joyful, and full of possibilities. All qualities I want to surround myself with on a daily basis. My first interaction with children started when I began babysitting for all ages even when I was as young as 10 years old. Eventually, all of my parents' tennis buddies had me watching their children every single weekend. And I loved every minute of it.

Time marched on. I moved on to high school, still babysitting whenever my schedule allowed. While in high school, I volunteered as a candy striper at a local hospital, asking to be on the children's ward as often as possible. It was distressing to see children who were hospitalized, but they were almost always in such good spirits that their smiles were infectious.

As I entered college at Southwestern, I knew I wanted to be involved in the medical profession. I still had vivid memories of my own childhood dentist, Dr. Henderson, who always made me laugh. He seemed to always make coming to the dentist fun and I thought, maybe I can do that too. So, once in dental school, I immediately focused on the path that led to a residency in pediatric dentistry.

I have been blessed to fulfill both of my childhood dreams: I became a mother, my greatest joy, and I work with children every single day. I like to think that my motherly manner and loving heart help to bring joy to my patients. I treat each child as I would my own: with respect, care, and love. For me, the foundation of my profession is the emotional well being of the child. The nuts and bolts of dentistry, though important, are secondary to taking care of your child's heart.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cunningham



Dear Parents,

My passion for the dental field started when I was in third grade. Two years prior, I had a severe bike accident, which caused one of my front teeth to be knocked back behind my bottom teeth. At eight years old, I met Dr. Fravel, an amazing and kind orthodontist who helped me with my smile and made me feel comfortable through the whole process from third grade to sixth grade. He would explain everything to me in terms that I understood and it was under his care that I realized this is what I wanted to do with my life and I never looked back.

While in dental school I enjoyed treating patients with various needs but more specifically the ones that brought me the most joy were my patients that needed a little extra care and attention. My second year, I had a patient that was special needs that had never been able to receive a lot of dental work before. With a lot of time and patience, we worked together and got her treatment done. After this experience, I realized that Pediatric dentistry and helping patients that needed time and attention and extra care is what I wanted to do.

Visiting the dentist can be a difficult experience. My goal is to try to make every child's visit enjoyable and friendly so much so, they would share it with their family and friends. I love to sing to patients to help them relax and tell a joke if they need to laugh, even if I'm not great at either.

Thank you so much for choosing me to help with your child's oral health. If there is anything I can do to make your visit the best it can be, please feel free to let me know. I look forward to meeting you during your visit!

Sincerely,

Rachael A. Garrett



Dear Parents,

For me, becoming a pediatric dentist was simple: I wanted to be someone's dentist. Meaning, I wanted the opportunity to foster and develop a relationship with a patient and their family that progressed and grew through time. I value the opportunity and role a pediatric dentist fulfills in a child's life.

At the time of realization, I already had a career in dentistry as a dental hygienist. I began in dentistry when I was seventeen years old and had reached a point in my career, 12 years later, where I desired to have a larger role. Meanwhile, I had a pediatric dentist who was a wonderful mentor who I had worked with over the past seven years. His encouragement led to me applying to dental school. Then, at 32 years old I wondered what I had gotten myself into. Soon after dental school, I was accepted into the Pediatric Dentistry Residency program. I knew that working with children reinforced my strengths and talents, and the pediatric dental specialty was the right path for me.

I welcome the responsibility that comes with "being someone's dentist" and would not change any part of the path that I walked over the past 34 years. I wanted to be the doctor that my patients could count on, who would give them her honest best, and who would develop the relationship and trust that my patients and their parents have come to respect and appreciate.

Thank you for helping me fulfill my dreams and for entrusting my team of pediatric dental specialists and me to the compassionate care of your child.

Sincerely,

Rita M. Cammarata