

Albuquerque's **Top** Pediatric Dentist



WHY THIS SPECIALTY?

I went to dentists a lot when I was a child and I knew that I could be much more compassionate.

MOST REWARDING ASPECT?

I love every minute of it. I especially love listening to the children. And our large staff is great—this really is my second family.

WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU FIRST WANTED TO BE A DENTIST?

I've known ever since I was in high school. I loved math, and my mom suggested dentistry.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CHAIR SIDE MANNER?

As a pedodontist, you have to be relaxed because children pick up on it. I explain everything, and we use a lot of distraction—I like to count the "bugs" I find when I drill the younger kids teeth.

ONE THING YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH?

I don't believe that dentistry should be dictated by insurance companies.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT UNCONDITIONALLY PUTS A SMILE ON YOUR FACE?

The kids! They always have something exciting to share with us.

WHAT ARE THE SECRETS TO GOOD DENTAL HYGIENE?

In my house in the morning, the car doesn't move until everybody brushes their teeth.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?

I have a husband and 3 children ages 11, 12, and 13—so I spend my time with them. We've traveled the world as a family.

WHAT ARE YOUR INDULGENCES/VICES?

I love math so I would actually love to be an accountant! But my fantasy job would be a dancer.

FAVORITE ABQ RESTAURANT?

My husband and I eat lunch at Savory Fare 3 to 4 times a week. It's so good!

HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR COLLEAGUES WOULD DESCRIBE YOU?

That I feel for kids while I get the job done. I have empathy both for the kids and the situation parents are in.

TO WHOM OR WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE YOUR SUCCESS?

I don't care about the money—good dentistry happens when you are good to people—to the kids, to parents and your staff. I treat everyone like family.