



JOHN P. MELINSKI, D.M.D., P.C.

PEDIATRIC DENTAL SPECIALIST

Dear Parents,

My staff and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family to our pediatric dental practice. We hope that this letter will serve to answer some of your questions and to familiarize you with our office procedures and philosophy.

BASIC TREATMENT PHILOSOPHIES

We believe in the **PREVENTION** of dental disease, of malocclusion and, as important, of fear and anxiety. We strive to make your child's experience in our office a positive one and encourage you to inform us of any specific concerns you may have.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry suggests that a child's first dental examination take place by his/her first birthday. At this visit we examine your child's mouth, teach you proper oral hygiene techniques and answer any questions you may have.

Subsequently, we will see your child every six months when an oral examination, cleaning and fluoride application will be performed. Young children often are the most comfortable being seen in the morning. During this time of day they are not overtired and the visit is a more positive one. Dental x-rays are often needed to make an exact diagnosis. If this is the case, we will explain the necessity and take the radiographs only with your permission. Our policy is to take x-rays only when necessary. Our x-ray equipment is safe and modern, and of course, shielding is used.

A few additional comments:

- * Please do not over prepare your child for the first visit. If we introduce your child to dentistry before any negative opinions are formed, we usually obtain a better relationship and more willing cooperation from your child.
- * Please refrain from saying, "**The dentist will not hurt you**" as this suggests that it is a distinct possibility. Instead, say, "The dentist will be very gentle with you."
- * You should not be upset if your child cries. As children are often afraid of anything new and strange, we consider crying just "loud cooperation."

OFFICE HOURS, PUNCTUALITY AND EMERGENCIES

As a rule, no restorations will be done at the first visit. If your child requires treatment beyond the first visit, we will review the fees involved, visits required and any concerns you may have. We try to provide dental treatment in a non-threatening manner. Children do very well in this reassuring environment.

Our office is open Monday through Saturday. In addition we are open late alternating Wednesdays. We try very hard to see all our patients promptly so we trust that you will make every effort to be on time. Young children, four years and younger, deal much better with the dental visit if not brought to the office late in the afternoon. Therefore, we do request that these

children be seen between 8AM and 2:30PM. If for any reason you do arrive late, while we will try to accommodate you, it may be necessary to reschedule. If your child cannot make his/her scheduled appointment, please notify us as soon as possible so that we can give the appointment to another child. If less than 24 hours notice is given or your appointment is broken, a broken appointment fee will be charged.

Occasionally we have to treat emergencies, which may delay our seeing regularly scheduled patients. While we regret any inconveniences this may cause you, we are committed to give emergencies priority treatment. If there is an emergency, you should call us as soon as possible. If immediate attention is required, we will make time available to see your child that day. In the event that we are not in the office, we will have an answering machine that will tell you how to get in touch with Dr. Melinski. If he is away, you will be provided with the covering dentist's phone number who is covering his emergencies.

DENTAL SEALANTS

Besides routine dental care the use of dental sealants is one of our best preventive instruments. Sealants are a coating applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. Properly applied, sealants can help your child grow through the cavity prone years with a greatly decreased chance of getting cavities on chewing surfaces.

ORTHODONTICS

We will evaluate your child's occlusion (bite). If there are any methods to lessen or correct a malocclusion problem, we will discuss this with you.

PAYMENT

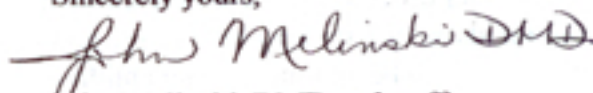
Payment is to be rendered at the time of treatment. Our computerized office accounts system is designed to provide you with the most fault free billing and recall system. If there are any questions, please call the office. As an added convenience, we also accept MasterCard, Visa and American Express.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT DR. MELINSKI'S TRAINING

Dr. Melinski earned his BS from SUNY Stony Brook and his MS from Adelphi University. He received his DMD at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He then trained at Schneider Children's Hospital/Long Island Jewish Medical Center where he earned his specialty training certification in pediatric dentistry. Presently, he holds an academic position and hospital appointment at Schneider Children's Hospital and Nassau County Medical Center. Dr. Melinski is a member of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Again, thank you for placing your trust and confidence in us. Your understanding and cooperation is an important part of your child's dental care. Therefore, please feel free to ask any questions you may have concerning pediatric dentistry. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and any friends or family you may refer to our office. We look forward to our growing association.

Sincerely yours,


John Melinski, DMD and staff