

HEALTHY TEETH FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Castle Medical Center partners in pediatric dentistry residency program

Castle Medical Center (CMC), in collaboration with Lutheran Medical Center, is providing a pediatric dentistry residency program that offers specialty training as well as acute dental services for children on 'Oahu who have special needs and lack access to care. ♦ Lutheran Medical Center began offering the two-year training program 15 years ago in New York, and in July 2009 established a training site in Hawaii as its fourth location, in addition to those in New York, Rhode Island and Alaska. The program's affiliation with CMC began in February last year, and since then sites have also been established in Arizona and Massachusetts, and plans are in place to open another site in Maine.

The program partners with community health centers to provide the services. Other organizations assisting with the program include the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Center, Kōkua Kalihi Comprehensive Family Services, West Hawaii Community Health Center-Keiki Clinic, Aloha Medical Mission, Shriners Hospital, Kona Community Hospital, Maui Memorial Hospital, Hilo Medical Center and the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine-LEND Program, a special program for patients with developmental disabilities.

OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS Children are seen at the statewide health centers and, if they require treatment, are scheduled for surgery at Castle Medical Center with Maile Kim, DDS, a Kailua-based pediatric dentist; Lynn Fujimoto, DMD, a Pearl City-based pediatric dentist; or David Okuji, DDS, with the Lutheran pediatric dentistry residency program. Part of the two-year residency program includes training in general anesthesia and surgery in a hospital setting. Both Dr. Kim and Dr. Okuji are diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Each of the three dentists is at CMC on a monthly basis to train the dental residents and treat pediatric patients.

"The patients we treat in the OR are either very young with extensive decay or have special needs and cannot be treated in the dental office," Dr. Kim says. "Some patients may be prone to seizures or suffer from autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or other medical problems. Treating these types of patients in the OR is common in the mainland, but not here in Hawaii. Castle Medical Center is allowing us to perform this important service through their partnership in this pediatric dental residency program."



David Okuji,
DDS, MBA

Dr. Okuji adds: "This beneficial program is made possible because of the generous support of the Castle Medical Center leadership, the nursing staff, the surgery staff, the anesthesia staff, and pediatricians Dr. John Nagamine and Dr. Brit Reis."



ALL SMILES: 3-year-old Devon Ishigo was one of the first patients to benefit from Castle's pediatric dental residency program. Here he and his mom, Wendy, visit Maile Kim, DDS, for a follow-up appointment.



MEET THE TEAM: Resident dentists Kozue Kawakubo (left), Hisako Seignemartin, Kirk Skidmore and Tanya Karnavy with Maile Kim, DDS (front)

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