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■ WOODCLIFF LAKE

Find a 'dental home' at Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental

For those who wish to see their kids' pearly whites stay that way, there's good news: Woodcliff Lake is now the place to find a one-of-a-kind pediatric dentist, Dr. Eli M. Rachlin. His practice, Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental, is conveniently located at 595 Chestnut Ridge Road.

"I love my work as a dentist, but most of all I love seeing kids smile," Rachlin tells Pascack Press.

And that's precisely the reaction most kids will have upon entering Rachlin's office, which is designed to widen the eyes of kids of all ages. There's bright, rainbow-colored walls, themed rooms, and even flat screen televisions for kids to watch while they're in the dentist's chair.

Indeed, for Rachlin, the sterile atmosphere found in most medical offices doesn't fit into his plan.

Environment-conscious to boot, Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental is a "paperless" office. Most all documents, including patient records and files, are kept on computers using modern dental software.

Even the X-rays are digital and are displayed on computers rather than on film. This gives Rachlin the opportunity to show

parents and children close-ups of their teeth and better explain the condition of their chompers.

Rachlin attended dental school at the University of Toronto and completed a fellowship in advanced dentistry at Columbia University. He then completed a year-long residency at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, N.Y., and a second two-year residency there specializing in pediatric dentistry. He completed his education and training in June of 2000 and keeps current in the field with continuing education courses.

"I knew I wanted to work with kids before I knew I wanted to be a dentist," says Rachlin. "I had been a counselor and leader of a division at a camp for children with cancer and other diseases from 1991 to 1995. It was a life-changing experience. I also volunteered for an organization which chaperoned sick children to Disney World, and I was a participant in the Big Brother program for sick kids."

While attending dental school, Rachlin also voluntarily ran Child Life Services in the oncology/hematology floor at a hospital on weekends. He held the title of student clinician for Alpha Omega dental fraternity, and



PHOTO BY LAURIE KAPLAN

■ Dr. Eli M. Rachlin

arranged seminars in which leading dentists in Toronto taught students.

"As a result of many of my activities, mostly with disabled and/or sick children, I was awarded the Student Leadership Award by the University of Toronto," Rachlin said.

Aside from dentistry, Rachlin is a husband and father of two girls. His wife is a speech pathologist at the Felician School for Exceptional Children in Lodi.

Rachlin wants children and parents to know that at Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental they can find a "dental home" - a warm and friendly place where they can feel comfortable having any dental problems treated and, preferably, prevented.

Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental shares a building with Chestnut Ridge Pediatrics and Wittlinger Orthodontics, but is not affiliated with the latter businesses.

The practice is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and some Sunday mornings. Call the office at (201) 391-4441 for information or to schedule an appointment.