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## WOODCLIFF LAKE

# Pediatric dentist loves seeing children smile

February was Dental Health Month, and there's no better place to improve your child's dental health than at Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental in Woodcliff Lake.

Pediatric Dentist Dr. Eli Rachlin, or Dr. Eli, as his patients refer to him, opened Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental in 2007.

The office is dedicated to optimizing the oral health children of all ages, including those with special needs. Aside from being under the care of an excellent, gentle dentist, patients have no choice but to feel comfortable in Dr. Eli's office.

The reception area is like a storybook wonderland, and each examination room is bright and cheerful and contains an overhead flat screen TV that shifts to accommodate any angle so that while in the chair, children can watch and preoccupy themselves.

This comfortable and friendly office environment is a reflection of Dr. Rachlin's attitude and positive approach to dentistry. But in addition to being fun and bright, the office is also state of the art. "Dr. Eli" makes best use out of the latest, most effective technologies that make his job and his patient's experience better all around. One example is air abrasion, which is a painless method to remove cavities that frequently reduces the need for a drill. Another good example is the soft-tissue laser, which provides a patient with optimal comfort if soft-tissue sur-

gery is needed.

Dr. Rachlin's intra-oral camera is a specialized miniature video camera that enables patients and parents to see their teeth up close. This allows patients and parents to participate more fully in understanding their mouths and teeth.

As if the high-tech equipment isn't enough, the office is environmentally friendly. Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental is proud to be almost paperless, meaning most every document, including X-rays, is digital. In 2012, hygienist Almas Bhatti joined Dr. Rachlin's team. Almas, who instructs dental hygiene students at NYU dental school, loves working with children, and her enthusiasm and dedication complements the office well.

For Dental Health Month, Rachlin and his staff make special visits to local schools and day care centers to talk about dental hygiene and healthy food choices with stu-



Dr. Eli Rachlin, center, is joined by dental assistants Erin and Dahiana, dental hygienist Almas, and patient care coordinator Debbie.

dents. In fact, their presence is so in demand this year that Rachlin had booked events as early as January and into March. During the rest of the year he enjoys being an active member of the community, and participates in health fairs.

Rachlin graduated dental school in 1996 from the University of Toronto in Canada, where he grew up. There, he was awarded the prestigious Student Leadership Award due to his volunteer work with special-needs children and those with life-threatening illnesses.

After dental school, he moved to the tri-state area to complete a fellowship in advanced dentistry at Columbia University. Following the fellowship, Dr. Rachlin completed a residency in hospital dentistry at Montefiore Medical Center and Jacobi Hospital and completed his specialty training in Pediatric Dentistry at Montefiore Medical Center.

"I knew I wanted to work with kids before I knew I wanted to be a dentist," says Rachlin, who was a counselor and leader of a division at a camp for children with cancer and other diseases from 1991 to 1995.

He also volunteered for an organization that chaperoned sick children to Disney World, and was a participant in the Big Brother program. Even while attending dental school, Rachlin ran Child Life Services in the oncology/hematology floor at The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) on weekends. He also

held the title of student clinician for Alpha Omega dental fraternity, arranging seminars at which leading area dentists provided advanced instruction to dental students.

Dr. Rachlin is a board-certified diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and an active member of the American Dental Association and the New Jersey Dental Association. Of course, he loves being a pediatric dentist, but above all things, he loves seeing kids smile. And smile they do, as one can see on the "rave reviews" section of the office's website (CRKidsteeth.com), where Rachlin happily displays some of the artwork created for him by his patients.

Rachlin and his wife Gila have been married for 18 years. Gila is a speech therapist at Hillside Elementary in Closter. Her work with children on the autism spectrum was prominently featured in an article in The Parent Paper. Eli and Gila have two daughters and two sons, ranging in age from 5 to 16 years old.

Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental is located at 595 Chestnut Ridge Road in Woodcliff Lake.

For more information, or even a picture tour of the office, visit [www.CRKidsteeth.com](http://www.CRKidsteeth.com). Call (201) 391-4441 to schedule an appointment.