

Ask Dr. Hori A Child's Smile

BY JAMES M. HORI, DDS



Your child's smile can brighten your day, but sometimes you need help from an expert to make that smile the best it can be.

Dr. James Hori and his friendly team are committed to delivering outstanding dental care for your child. They believe in educating you and your child about the importance of dental health and encouraging your child to practice optimal dental-health habits.

Here are some questions that our readers had for Dr. Hori:

What is a pediatric dentist?

A pediatric dentist is a dentist who

specializes in working with children and adolescents after completing two or three years of extra training. The advantage of going to a pediatric dentist is that the entire team loves working with children. Children do well in a fun and loving environment.

My child sucks his thumb. How will that affect his tooth development?

If your child sucks his or her thumb, his or her teeth may become crooked and braces may be required to correct them. I recommend the book, *David Decides about Thumbsucking*, by Susan Heitler, to help parents talk to their children. I used it successfully with my 5-year-old daughter.

Why do my child's permanent teeth look yellow next to his white baby teeth?

Permanent teeth are naturally more yellow; this is perfectly normal.

What is fluoride and how much does my child need?

Fluoride is like vitamins for the teeth. It inhibits loss of minerals

from tooth enamel and encourages remineralization (strengthening areas that are weakened and beginning to develop cavities). Fluoride also affects bacteria that cause cavities, discouraging acid attacks that break down the tooth. A fluoride supplement or fluoride gel can be prescribed depending on the child's age, dietary sources and risk of developing decay.

If you would like to book an appointment with Dr. Hori or if you have questions for him, please call 671-0055.

Dr. James Hori graduated from Moanalua High School and received his dental degree from the University of Southern California. He then completed his post-doctorate training in pediatric dentistry at Oregon Health Sciences University. Hori practiced in Oceanside, Calif., for 10 years before deciding to return to Waipahu in 2002.



Dentistry for Children

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