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Why To Choose a Pediatrician For Your Child

We are aware that every parent has choices for their child's medical care. Our patients who are reading this have made a wise choice in choosing a medical office with **Board Certified Pediatricians**.

After college, Pediatricians then have four more years of medical training, then three more years of pediatric training, adding up to **more than 10,000 hours dedicated exclusively to children**. Other providers may have had as little as one year of a master's level training with only 100 hours dedicated exclusively to children. Yet they often will

shamelessly promote themselves as "pediatricians".

Parents must be cautious when choosing to have their child seen at an urgent care or other facility, which may not have pediatric trained providers, or supervision by Pediatricians. You may get what you want (i.e. an antibiotic) but it may not always be the proper treatment

Most importantly, though, is having a Pediatrician available for those more challenging issues, more than just what may seem like a cold or sore throat, but could be a more serious problem.

- **Parker Pediatrics has seven Board Certified Pediatricians** (with over 120 years of experience), as well as **three pediatric physician extenders** (with over 25 years of experience).
- We also have **three very experienced pediatric psychologists**.

We work collegially, consult with each other routinely, and require continuing education for all of our providers.

We thank you for your continued trust in us, and your decision to choose real Pediatricians.

Parker Pediatrics To Institute Autopay

Due to the increasing number of high deductible plans, as well as the escalating costs of collecting these balances, we will be instituting an **autopay option starting in January 2020**. This will be a convenient method for our patients to pay their balances. We will continue to bill your insurance plan, but once the claim has been processed, we will automatically charge your credit/debit card on file for any balance due, up to \$200 per month. Copays will still be due at the time of service.

Your information will be secure, as we will scan your card to an encrypted merchant service vault (same as airlines, hotels, etc). We will only have access to the last four digits of your account number. An e-mail receipt will be sent upon any charge, and we will contact you for arrangements if the balance is over \$200.

We are doing this to help keep costs down, both yours and ours. We are one of the few medical offices that do not charge for forms (we sign over 10,000 forms a year), nor do we charge for phone call advice. In addition, we do not charge for additional diagnoses at your child's well exam, a practice done by most others and which generally doubles the cost of that visit, and may go to deductible and generally requires a separate copay. We will not be able to continue to offer these benefits if we have to also spend excessive amounts of time and resources to collect our reimbursement. You trust us with your child's health. We ask that you trust us with our autopay program.

Well Exam Screening Tests

Parents often ask which screening tests, which may incur additional charges, will be done at their child's well exam. Here is a summary of these.

At the ten-day visit, we do the second newborn screen, which is sent to the state to look for rare genetic disorders. At the two-month visit, we screen for maternal post partum depression. We screen your child's developmental progress at all well visits from four months to three years of age. At the 18-month and two-year visits, we screen for autism.

At ages six and nine, we screen for behavioral issues. We screen for depression/anxiety at each visit after age 12.

Anemia is screened for at nine months and two years of age. Cholesterol screening is done for at ages nine, 13 and 17 years. Lead is screened for at ages one and two.

Vision is screened yearly starting at age one. Hearing screening is done starting at age four.

This and That

Drs. Rabinowitz and Einhorn recently spoke at the annual American Academy of Pediatrics meeting this October in New Orleans. They spoke on integrating mental health services in primary care offices. **Dr. Finney and Rich Hayes** also attended the meeting.

Our office policy guarantees **same-day appointments** if made before 2:30 PM on that day. After that, it depends on the acuity of the condition, as well as our schedule.

Holiday Schedule: We are closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. We will be open on the morning of December 24, and all day on December 31.



Beware of **Holiday poisonings** and ingestions: plants (mistletoe, Jerusalem cherry, holly berries), decorations (angle hair, tree lights, ornaments), gifts (cologne, buttons, batteries), preservatives, and alcohol.

We will continue to give **flu vaccines** on Thursday afternoons through December, as well as during scheduled appointments. Call to schedule.

New research shows that **baby (and fetal) hiccoughs** appear to be helpful for developing proper respirations. So stop trying to halt them with old fashioned remedies, and let them happily hiccough!

Happy Holiday Season to all of our patients and families. May everyone have a healthy 2020!

“Quotable Quotes”

The following conversations occurred in our office.

Provider: “Do you have allergies?”

Eight-year-old: “No, I just sneeze a lot.”



Provider: “How long have you had these symptoms?”

Eight-year-old: “Since I was sick.”

When the doctor asked a seven-year-old with a cold if he blew his nose, his 10-year-old brother answered, “No, but he picks it.”



Doctor: “Do you fight with your brother?”

Six-year-old “Yes, but I'm trying to quit.”

As her infant brother was being weighed, a five-year-old asked, “Can I get weighed to see how old I am?”



When asked why she was at our office, a six-year-old replied, “I was playing and a rock fell in my nose.”

If you enjoy these quotes, you can purchase Dr. Rabinowitz's book, [Cute Kidbits, Funny Conversations Kids Share With Their Pediatrician](#), on Amazon or at the office.

Meet The Providers

Parker Pediatrics (PP): Where did you grow up?

Lauren Finney (LF): Abilene, Texas.

PP: We heard you are an avid reader.

LF: Mystery novels mostly—James Patterson is my favorite author.

PP: Do you have a favorite dessert?

LF: White cake or coffee ice cream (but not together).

PP: When did you decide to become a Pediatrician?

LF: I knew from about age 10 that I wanted to be a Pediatrician at an office just like Parker Pediatrics. My childhood Pediatrician was my mentor and very influential in molding my career path.

PP: Tell us something interesting about you.

LF: Growing up, my entire family participated in a live musical, “The Fandangle”, every summer telling the story of the settlement of Texas, and included real cowboys, horses, and square dancing.

