



Dear Parents,

For me, it is clear: I love being around kids. I find them funny, entertaining, joyful, and full of possibilities. All qualities I want to surround myself with on a daily basis. My first interaction with children started when I began babysitting for all ages even when I was as young as 10 years old. Eventually, all of my parents' tennis buddies had me watching their children every single weekend. And I loved every minute of it.

Time marched on. I moved on to high school, still babysitting whenever my schedule allowed. While in high school, I volunteered as a candy striper at a local hospital, asking to be on the children's ward as often as possible. It was distressing to see children who were hospitalized, but they were almost always in such good spirits that their smiles were infectious.

As I entered college at Southwestern, I knew I wanted to be involved in the medical profession. I still had vivid memories of my own childhood dentist, Dr. Henderson, who always made me laugh. He seemed to always make coming to the dentist fun and I thought, maybe I can do that too. So, once in dental school, I immediately focused on the path that led to a residency in pediatric dentistry.

I have been blessed to fulfill both of my childhood dreams: I became a mother, my greatest joy, and I work with children every single day. I like to think that my motherly manner and loving heart help to bring joy to my patients. I treat each child as I would my own: with respect, care, and love. For me, the foundation of my profession is the emotional well being of the child. The nuts and bolts of dentistry, though important, are secondary to taking care of your child's heart.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cunningham