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The Voice of Your Community

Norfolk Family & Pediatric Dentistry:

A Fit for the Whole Family

"Let our family take care of your family."

That's the motto Drs. Mindy and Shabtai Sapir live by, as they've taken their husband and wife family dentistry practice, Norfolk Family & Pediatric Dentistry, to a beautiful new, state-of-the-art facility located at 65 Holbrook St. in Norfolk. The couple provides a full range of dentistry for the whole family, caring for children as young as newborns all the way to adults in their senior years, along with patients with dental anxiety and special needs of all ages (autism, Down Syndrome, etc.).

"We put 'family' before 'pediatric'" because we want parents and kids to feel comfortable in the same place," says Dr. Shabtai Sapir, or "Dr. Shabtai." "Together, 'Dr. Mindy' and I can cover all types of treatment, to the highest level." The practice offers preventative care to orthodontics, oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, root canals and even dentures, as well as the management of sleep apnea. "A lot of patients are sick and tired of moving to another office for specialty care, but because we are so experienced, we can do 99% of dental treatments under the same roof."

Both Sapirs have 22 years of experience. In fact, they met in dental school, with Mindy giving birth to their first child on her last day of

finals.

Now the parents of five children aged 10-22, the Sapirs moved to this area from Long Island, NY, when Shabtai was relocated to become Associate Program Director and Director of Sedation of NYU Lutheran Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry Rhode Island site. Their new dental office in Norfolk will be their third together, as they shared a practice both in Israel and in Brookline.

What is striking about the sunny, spacious office that exceeds Board of Registration in Dentistry requirements are the treatment rooms. Despite a large open format, each treatment room features just one patient chair. Drs. Sapir have gone out of their way to give full attention to one patient at a time.

"We're aiming to have individualized attention and treatment, not mass production, in bays, like the big offices," says Mindy.

"We give space physically as well as mentally and concentrate on our patient," says Shabtai. "Instead of seeing three patients in separate chairs and dividing our attention as providers, we believe in one-on-one dental care." Parents are even welcomed into the treatment room with their children. "Our patients love it," says Shabtai. "and they have one-on-one privacy."

Business spotlight

Shabtai has much respect for his patients, who, he says, are people first. A specialist in pediatric dentistry, Shabtai takes pride in creating a positive experience for children. Although the practice is equipped to provide all levels of sedation, from laughing gas, through oral and intravenous sedation to general anesthesia, General anes-



thesia is used only when there is no other less risky alternative.

"As a pediatric dentist, I get a lot of patients referred for general anesthesia, because they're difficult. Although general anesthesia might make performing dental procedures easier for the dentist, he says, general anesthesia does little to quell children's anxiety. "Even though you have the tool, not everything looks like a nail," he says. He derives a lot of satisfaction in success with the less risky, perhaps more challenging art of behavioral guidance as the most ethical approach. Then, "you not only perform the treatment, but progress with the child, build the patient, and change the attitude towards dentistry."

While Shabtai enjoys his specialties, Dr. Mindy loves the variety

general dentistry offers, "I love being a dentist," says Dr. Mindy, instantly helping her patients. "You can take them out of that pain, or she can suddenly smile, or he can have a fractured tooth bonded as if nothing happened. It gives everyone involved a really good feeling."

Dr. Mindy points out to her patients the connection between general and oral health.

"With the older population, their oral health is just as important as their heart health," she says. She screens for gum disease, oral cancer, and sleep apnea as part of her exam on older patients. Adults, she says, tend to have more complex problems, and she tries to save as many teeth as she can while offering the options of implants, bridges and dentures.

In fact, Norfolk Family & Pediatric

Dentistry uses the latest technology in addition to sedation dentistry, including intraoral cameras, digital x-rays and "paperless" paperwork, all on computer. Patients can enjoy personalized TV in each examination room, as well as Wifi, and they can access education materials and videos on the website.

"Not many other dentist offices can provide dentistry that we do," says Shabtai. "We really provide a state of the art level of dentistry with humane and affordable care," says Shabtai. "As a pediatric dentist, I see children from Mass Health and I see children with self-pay. No matter how they got to us, once they sit in my chair, every patient gets the highest level of treatment. We provide the same care I would give to my own child or my Mom, to every single patient."

Drs. Sapir want to see their patients at all stages, "when they're 3 years old, and when they're 20, and then afterwards when they're 80," says Mindy.

"The same way you see your own children growing, I want to see my patients, from A to B to C, and give the treatment in the process," says Shabtai.

Norfolk Family & Pediatric Dentistry is located at 65 Holbrook Street, Ste. 210, in Norfolk, Mass. You can reach Drs. Mindy and Shabtai Sapir at (508) 850-6992, or find them online at www.norfolkfamilyandpediatricdentistry.com.

