

**C A S E S T U D Y**



## Giving Patients and Team Members Something to Smile About

**D**r. Katelin Ratliff, a pediatric dentist taking over the highly successful practice of Dr. Alan Klein, realized they had outgrown their existing facility. They had a need for 10 exam and treatment rooms and required a much larger waiting area for patients and families. Familiar with FUNArchitecture's other projects that were FUN, super family friendly, and kid-tested and approved, they agreed to partner on the task of designing a new pediatric facility. Schematic design planning was guided by a principle that the outside style and aesthetic of the building had to have "curb appeal" to visitors. Dr. Kate desired for it to look "homey" and inviting – after all, what child would be scared to go to a "home" for dental treatment? The interior of the office, Dr. Kate emphasized, needed to be designed for its patients – the kids!

The interior needed to be FUN and exciting, with many interesting and educational elements to view and interact with. It had to be colorful, friendly and welcoming. In the lobby, arriving patients are greeted with natural daylight provided by walls of windows and fun, colorful pendant light fixtures hanging from the branches of two tree canopies in the waiting room. The ceiling is tongue and groove wood. The floors are a wood look LVT. Soft surfaces, like the oversized (two-foot to four-foot) acoustical leaves in the trees and a grassy carpet area, provide inviting spaces for crawling babies and provide quieting effects. Other acoustical elements take the shape of colorful birds, kites and paper airplanes.

*Continued on back...*

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*Continued from front...*

A 12 foot long by eight foot tall life-sized “lite brite” allows waiting patients to let their imaginations run wild by creating their own wall designs from brightly colored resin pegs. Each treatment room has two sliding doors that allow natural daylight from the perimeter office walls to permeate the interior heart of the office. A cushioned bench provides an area for parents to wait in the room with their young patients to help alleviate dentist visit anxiety. A prize wall features vending style prize machines, as well as a “PLINKO” (Price is Right

inspired) charitable donation game where “No Cavity Club” members can make a donation to their favorite charity to celebrate a job well done and to provide an incentive for a no cavity next visit!

A state-of-the-art sterile lab, Pan Ceph and X-ray machines, a spacious staff break and training room, and private offices provide today’s most modern dental treatment and care in a new cutting-edge facility where training is imperative for great dental results!

