

Making your family smile

Forney Family Dentistry features state-of-the-art facility

Melina Cozby said she knew when she finished dental school in 2009 that she wanted to open her practice in her hometown of Forney.

A year after graduation from Baylor College of Dentistry, the Forney native is offering a full-range of services through Forney Family Dentistry where their logo is, "Making Your Whole Family Smile!"

Now Dr. Cozby has welcomed Dr. Erica Coe, a 2007 graduate of the Columbia College of Dental Medicine in New York City, to the practice. The two dentists, who met through a mutual friend, oddly enough credit childhood fears of dentists for leading them on a path to their current careers.

"I was dental-phobic," Dr. Cozby recalls, adding that she insisted on having nitrous oxide before any procedure.

However, as a teen, Dr. Cozby's fear was alleviated after she met a dentist whose reassuring demeanor helped her realize that dental work does not have to be unpleasant. After that experience, Cozby said she realized that there was a need for other dentists like her so she decided to go to dental school herself.

"Now, dentistry is my passion — my calling," she

said.

Likewise, Dr. Coe remembers being scared of her mother's dentist.

"He was a large man, and I would get so scared, as an 8-year-old, I would hide under my bed until my mom pulled me out to force me to go to the dentist," said Dr. Coe, who added that once her fear got the best of her and she jumped out of her mother's station wagon to avoid going to the dentist. "When she slowed down, I jumped out, but that didn't stop my mom. She turned around, got me and we drove to the dentist. When we arrived, after my mom got out of the car, I locked all the doors and it took the dentist coming out to the car to speak to me to get me into the office."

Those fears led Dr. Coe's mother's dentist to suggest taking her to a children's dentist. In her teens, Dr. Coe began going to a young female dentist, who eventually inspired Dr. Coe to pursue the same profession.

"I was home one summer and was in her chair when she said 'You should be a dentist.' And that's what I decided to do," said Dr. Coe, who went on to shadow her mentor while attending college.

Today, Dr. Cozby and Dr. Coe both use their ex-

periences and education to create a patient-friendly environment where patients of all ages feel comfortable and relaxed.

The office's pleasant reception area features a coffee bar for adults and a Wii in the kids' corner. The pampering continues in the exam rooms where patients can relax in massage chairs and watch TV.

The office sees patients of all ages, something that makes it convenient when families are scheduling appointments.

Dr. Cozby said she and Dr. Coe go out of their way to make patients feel at ease, distracting children by giving "bubbles" instead of shots and 'nitrous oxide' disguised as Wonka Juice."

"For me, working with kids is kind of like going to Disney World for the day," she said.

To make patients even more comfortable, Forney Family Dentistry uses a special topical anesthetic which combines three anesthetics which penetrate deeper, is absorbed faster and provides more deadening than the typical dental topical.

The office offers routine checkups, dental hygiene, sealants and fillings and oral cancer screenings. In addition, Dr. Cozby offers cosmetic dental services



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Dr. Erica Coe and Dr. Melina Cozby bring care and compassion to their Forney dental clinic.

using veneers, invisalign braces and teeth whitening to improve her patients' smiles.

They offer Digital lumineer technology which allows patients to see what they would look like with a "Hollywood smile."

"If you want to see what you might look like with a Hollywood smile, we can digitally reveal your dream smile," Dr. Cozby said.

Dr. Cozby is very devoted to the Forney-area commu-

nity and takes advantage of any opportunity to provide dental education to local students. She also hands out toothbrush kits at area health fairs and festivals.

Police, firefighters and teachers receive a 10 percent discount.

"Not only do I want to provide the best patient care, but I want to give back as much as possible to the community," she said.

Dr. Cozby has been honored as one of "America's

Top Dentists" by the Consumer's Research Council of America. She also received the International Hatton Award for her research on craniosynostosis from the International Association of Dental Research.

Forney Family Dentistry is located next door to McDonald's near Pinson Road. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 972-564-7575 or visit their website, www.forney-familydentistry.com.