

THE CUTTING EDGE: Gentle Treatment of Tongue and Lip Ties

FROM THEIR FIRST day of life onward, a child's oral health greatly impacts everything they do. The bond between mother and child can be strengthened through breast-feeding; however, this can become complicated or interrupted entirely if your child has a tongue or lip tie.

You may be surprised to learn this condition is found in approximately ten percent of children born in the US and tethered oral tissues, or TOTs, affect proper function of the jaw and mouth. TOTs can also affect bone growth, proper cranial mechanics and development, and cervical spine mobility. Not being able to reach areas of the roof of the mouth equally when nursing or bottle-feeding can cause a child to take in air when eating. This can lead to a gag reflex and other feeding and digestive issues. Abnormal tongue movements can also play a large part in speech delays or impediments and airway issues such as sleep disordered breathing.

Treatment of TOTs can often dramatically improve a child's ability to breathe, grow, and thrive.

Recognizing this importance, the Kidds Place Dentistry for Children has recently acquired a state-of-the-art LightScalpel™ CO2 laser and Dr. Catherine Luchini has trained extensively. The CO2 laser is truly the gold standard in treatment today: It is extremely precise. As it vaporizes, it is able to cauterize tiny blood vessels and nerve endings. This minimizes bleeding and discomfort and promotes better healing.

Most procedures, especially infants can be done without any anesthesia at all, and the procedures take less than a minute.



Dentistry with a HAPPY HEART

Dr. Cathy has been practicing dentistry for over thirty years and recently began studying more and more about the pediatric airway and the treatment of tethered oral tissues. In addition to being a member of the AAPMD (American Association of Physiological Medicine & Dentistry), she is a member of the American Laser Study Club where she studied directly under the creator of the LightScalpel and other experts in this field, as well as ASAP (Airway, Sleep, and Pediatrics) Pathway.

The cornerstone of Dr. Cathy's practice is "Dentistry with a Happy Heart", and she is committed to helping every child in need of gentle, dental assessment & treatment. Her patients and parents appreciate her most for her kind and soft spirit and you will often hear her celebrating with her patients at their visit that it's "The Best Day Ever"! To learn more about TOTs or how Dr. Cathy and her team may help your child thrive with an improved health and well-being, they welcome your visit!