

EP. 60 Interview with Dianne Peterson, author of the children's book, "Oh No! I've Gotta Go to the Dentist!"

In this episode, we talk to Dianne Peterson, dental hygienist and new children's author, and find out what drove her to write a children's book.

Q. How long have you been a hygienist?

A. Almost 25 years. Since 1993, I've been practicing hygiene.

Q. What led you to write a children's book?

A. That's a very good question. This is an unusual answer. I have not worked in pediatrics, but I have treated a lot of kids. Why I wanted to write this is I feel like it was a gift from God. It was a vision that he gave me to animate the tools, Explorer Eddy, Minnie Mirror, Pearly Polish, and Sammy Sippy.

Q. You are hoping to create plush tools to go with the book. Is that right?

A. Yes I have a grant submitted and we are hoping to get funding for that purpose. We are going to do some testing to alleviate dental fear in children. What I saw coming into the office was a broken link. We as hygienists know how we want the children to perform and how we want their parents to perform. I feel like there was missing education. This book was written to fill the educational gap. I did not always in my heart have it in me to write a children's book, but this was to fill in the gap process.

Q. How in the world do you start this process?

A. That's been a process. I did self-publish this. There will be reissue with Mascot Books, a publishing company. I'm a "nobody" in the world of books. You almost have to be a celebrity to get sales. It wasn't about the sales, it was the educational piece. I went to a shark tank convention in Nashville and people presented their ideas. I had this idea on my brain. There was a lady behind me who said, "You aren't behind me for no reason at all. I don't believe in coincidences." So she gave me the name of the Women's Pathway Center in Nashville. I called them and got to connected to Renee Bobb, a self-publishing lady who holds seminars for people who want to self-publish their books. So the process began that I started to educate myself on how to do this process. It's been fun and challenging and I love challenges. That's what happened. I had the story line and miraculously (every step has been a miracle) the lady that illustrated this book, I work with her twin sister. She is excellent and it remind me of Disney quality. Explorer Eddy gave us the most fits, but it came together. Since then Mascot Books has hired her as a freelance artist for illustrations. I'm super excited to help jumpstart her career. She's working in a dental lab making teeth and she's super talented.

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Q. Not only have you opened new doors for yourself, but you've stepped out and helped other people find new avenues a well.

A. That is the most rewarding piece of this. She is so talented and this was her first book. If you look at it, it's impressive.

Q. Would offices be able to sell this in their office?

A. Absolutely, that is a great fill in the gap book. I even have it as an Ebook. Families can purchase it from offices. At my office we have it for sale, and patients seem to like that we are engaging that younger audience. That's a patient base that's been left behind. As hygienists, we focus on perio and whitening, which are all great things, but dental decay is the #1 childhood disease in America. As hygienists, we need to make a dent in that. I think it begins with education. I've been on Mission Trips, as have many people listening to this. You can fix their teeth, but if you can't educate them it can't last. That is true overseas and here in our own land. Dental education is so valuable on the Mission Trip and we take it for granted most of the time here in America. That's what I want to give to kids and their parents. In the back of the book, there are parenting tips to help that parent get through the appointment and have it be successful.

Q. What's the future of the book?

A. We may want to mention the name of the book, "Oh No! I've Gotta Go to the Dentist". The reason I titled it that is because when you tell a kid they have to have a filling or sealant, you see that oh no! look in their eyes. This book is meant to make this a positive experience. Where I'm going is exactly wherever God is leading me. I'm hoping the grant will get funded so that we can have the plush instruments to go with this book. I have another book coming out that goes to the 1 – 3 year-old segments and it will have parenting tips, too. With the combination of these two books, I hope to educate the world. I've got it translated into Spanish and I want it to come out with that version for dental Mission Trips.

Q. How can our listeners get a copy of the book?

A. Thank you for asking. You can go to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to get a copy or my personal website toothfairyexpress.com. You can also get the book at mascotbooks.com/ohnoigottagotothedentist. They will be hard copies. I hope everyone can get a copy and enjoy it. If you have read that book, please go to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [goodreads](https://www.goodreads.com) and leave a review. That makes a huge impact on book sales.

Get your copy of the book and let us know how you like it! We loved talking to Dianne Peterson and can't wait to talk to her again when her second book comes out.