Understanding and Management of Special Child in Pediatric Dentistry
HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD

A meeting was held quite far from Earth:
   “It’s time again for another birth."
   Said the Angels to the Lord Above,
   “This special child will need much love.”

   Her progress may seem very slow,
   Accomplishments she may not show
   And she’ll require extra care
   From folks she meets way down there.

   She may not run or laugh or play
   Her thoughts may seem quite far away:
   In many ways she isn’t adapt
   And she’ll be known as handicapped.

   So let’s be careful where she’s sent
   We want her life to be content.
   Please, Lord, find the parents who
   Will do a special job for you.

   They will not realize right away
   The leading role they’re asked to play
   But with this child sent from above
   Comes a stronger faith and richer love.

   And soon they’ll know the privilege given
   In caring for the Gift from Heaven.
   Their precious charge,
   so meek and mild
   Is Heaven’s Very Special Child.

— Edna Massimilla
Understanding and Management of Special Child in Pediatric Dentistry

Editors-in-Chief

Priya Verma Gupta MDS
Associate Professor
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
ITS College of Dental Studies and Research
Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh, India

Amitha M Hegde MDS
Professor and Head
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences
Mangalore, Karnataka, India

Forewords

Soni Stephen
SG Damle

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Dedicated to

My dear father Late RP Verma
and
father-in-law Late Padamshree Dr LC Gupta
for teaching me that great things are born from tiny sparks of inspiration...... miss you dad
Contributors

Ashmitha Shetty  MDS
Assistant Professor
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
MS Ramaiah Dental College
Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Abhishek Gupta  MD, DRM, DNB, MNAMS
Consultant and Head Nuclear Medicine
Delhi Institute of Funchanal Imaging
NDSEI, Delhi, India

Anjula Vij  MBBS
USA

Brinda Godhi  MDS
Senior Lecturer
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
ITS College of Dental Studies and Research
Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh, India

Dinesh Rao B  MDS
Professor
Department of Pediatric Dentistry
Pacific Dental College and Hospital
Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

Deepak Verma  LLB
Advocate
Delhi High Court
New Delhi, India

Harish Chellani  MD DCH
Consultant and Associate Professor
Neonatology Division
Department of Pediatrics
Vardhan Mahavir Medical College and
Safdarjung Hospital
New Delhi, India

Harsh Mohan  MDS FAMS FICPath FUCC
Professor and Head
Department of Pathology
Government Medical College
Sector-32A, Chandigarh
India

Jyoti Gupta  MDS
Professor and Head
Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology
School of Dental Sciences, KIMSDU
Karad, Maharashtra, India

Kavita Rai  MDS
Professor
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences
Mangalore, Karnataka, India

Kiran K  MDS
Reader
KLEVK Institute of Dental Sciences
Nehru Nagar
Belgaum, Karnataka, India

Krishna Shama Rao  MBBS MDS FRCS (Edin) FDSRCS (Eng)
Professor and Director
Centre for Craniofacial Anomaly
President Maya Foundation
Yenepoya Dental College
Mangalore, Karnataka
India

Neeraj Gugnani  MDS
Professor
Department of Pediatric Dentistry
DAV (C) Dental College
Yamuna Nagar, Haryana
India

Nidhi Agarwal  MDS
Professor
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
ITS College of Dental Studies and Research
Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh, India

PB Sood  MDS
Principal and Head
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry
ITS College of Dental Studies and Research
Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh, India
Pooja Ahmad MFDSRCS (Eng)  
Fox Hall Dental Practice  
Ipswip, Sussolk  
United Kingdom

Prabhavati P Inamdar  
Reader  
Department of Pedodontics  
Al-Ameen Dental College  
Bijapur, Karnataka  
India

Prasad Musale MDS  
Professor  
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry  
MA Rangoonwala College of Dental Sciences and Research Centre  
Azam Campus  
Pune, Maharashtra  
India

R Arun MDS  
Professor  
Department of Pedodontics  
Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences  
Bhubaneswar  
Orissa, India

Ravighna P MDS  
Reader  
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry  
SVS Institute of Dental Sciences  
Mahaboob Nagar  
Hyderabad  
Andhra Pradesh  
India

Sangeetha P Venkatesh MDS  
Specialist Pediatric Dentist  
Badr All Samaa  
Al khowd  
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Shrirang Sevekar MDS  
Reader  
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry  
MGM Dental College and Hospital  
Kamothe, Navi Mumbai  
Maharashtra, India

Subhadra HN MDS  
Reader  
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry  
DY Patil Dental College and Hospital  
Nerul, Navi Mumbai  
Maharashtra, India

Sujata Sarabahi MS MCh DNB MNAMS  
Associate Professor and Senior Plastic Surgeon  
Department of Burn, Plastic Maxillofacial and Microvascular Surgery  
Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital  
New Delhi, India

US Krishna Nayak MDS  
Dean (Academics)  
Professor and Head  
Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics  
Professor and Head  
AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences  
Mangalore, Karnataka, India

Vabhitha Shetty MDS  
Professor  
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry  
AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences  
Mangalore, Karnataka, India

Vijay Prakash Mathur MDS  
Associate Professor  
Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences  
New Delhi, India
I am pleased to preview title *Understanding and Management of Special Child in Pediatric Dentistry* by Dr Priya Verma Gupta.

The book shall prove to be the basis for comprehensive practice pertaining to the special children. There is an ample review of the literature and a sincere effort has been made to make it special in the field of clinical dentistry.

AK Munshi
Director, Principal and Dean
Professor and Head
Department of Pedodontics KD Dental College and Hospital
Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India
I take pride in writing this special note of appreciation with utmost satisfaction for the scientific literary work of Dr Priya Verma Gupta and Professor Amitha M Hegde for writing a book titled *Understanding and Management of Special Child in Pediatric Dentistry*.

Dr Priya Verma Gupta was my student and now pedodontist, teacher and scientific writer. I am sure she was inspired as an undergraduate and postgraduate student in AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences wherein she participated in multiple visionary project of the institution.

Dr Priya Verma’s good nature, eagerness to associate with true academicians and scientific writers has inspired her to write this book by associating with the contribution from exemplary senior teachers and scientific writers. I sure this book shall inspire all those students of health sciences who are interested in assimilating scientific knowledge and plan for methodical treatment facilities for special children.

Professor Amitha M Hegde who is the co-author of this book is a dynamic, brilliant inspiring teacher, who has humbly associated with *Dr Priya Verma Gupta* in writing this book and inspiring more than 25 scholars to contribute in this premier book.

Congratulations to young pretty *Dr Priya Verma Gupta* and scholarly Professor Amitha M Hegde.

---

*Sridhar Shetty* BDS, MDS (Prosth)
Director
Center for Advanced Dentofacial and Stomatognatic Sciences (CADSS)
Founder Dean
AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences
Mangalore, Karnataka, India
Foreword

Dental management of the children with special needs is a challenging yet rewarding experience. Clinicians who manage and treat these special children require a thorough understanding of the nature and effects of various disabilities experienced by these children. It is still not uncommon to encounter clinicians who unfortunately are misinformed about conditions such as ‘Cerebral Palsy’ (CP) and treat children with CP as, if they have a mental rather than a physical disorder. Understanding the condition affecting their pediatric patients with special needs will greatly assist clinicians in providing appropriate, effective and optimal dental care for these special children. This results in improving the ‘Quality of Life’ of these special children.

This comprehensive textbook titled Understanding and Management of Special Child in Pediatric Dentistry explains in great detail the medical and dental aspects of the various disabilities and conditions seen in children with special needs. The topics included in this book cover the length and breadth of literature available in this field at the time of publication and is collated in a format which is easy to read and understand.

I congratulate Dr Priya Verma Gupta and Prof (Dr) Amita M Hegde for writing, collating and organizing the various chapters in this book and making this valuable resource available to the profession. I am confident that this book will be an excellent source of information and handy reference tool for students and clinicians who treat children with special needs.

Soni Stephen
BDS MDS Paed. Dent (Adelaide) FRACDS FADI FICD
Head of Department and Senior Staff Specialist
Department of Paediatric Dentistry
Sydney Dental Hospital and Sydney Health Network
University of Sydney
Australia
I am extremely happy to write Foreword for the book Understanding and Management of Special Child in Pediatric Dentistry authored by Dr Priya Verma Gupta and Dr Amitha M Hegde. The book is testimony of hard work of the authors. It shows that the authors have relentlessly put their heart and soul. The chapters are written very lucidly which shall be of immense help to the readers. Treating a special child in a Dental Clinic or in a hospital set-up needs patience, tolerance and courage as a disabled child sometimes poses a challenging situation. Even though they are the children of lesser God they need abundance of love and affection, encouragement and understanding. The sincere efforts of the author are fruitful in dealing with the burning issues of the profession. I compliment the authors for their excellent work exhibited in this book.

SG Damle  
Vice Chancellor  
Maharishi Markandeshwar University  
Mullana (Ambala), Haryana  
India
Pediatric dentistry is a specialty that deals with problems occurring in children, infants and neonates. This branch reserves its unique place in the field of dentistry for both dental and medical problems. The concept of this book was perceived few years back as we found that there was very limited literatures for dental clinicians and postgraduate students to understand needs of the special child along with their treatment strategies under one roof. The student is left perplexed as to from where the information can be gathered and assimilated to treat the special child. This lack of knowledge has created a vacuum, forcing us to run away from the situation and treating them as a burden thereby making not so essential referral to the hospital set-up.

Consequently these lead to limit our capability to manage such cases and prevent these kids from rightfully desired treatment. As we firmly believe that it is impossible to consize entire pediatric dentistry under one roof. Thus, this book represents an extended version of those conditions that are not seen in our routine practice. The book has been divided into eight sections. In the first section we take you through the various aspects such as needs, family environment, home care, finances, mental status of the child and the family. The next few sections give a detailed insight of all the condition of mental, physical, and medically compromised. Last but not the least we discuss Understanding and Management of Special Child in Pediatric Dentistry in a hospital set-up along with other aspects such as admission procedures, clinical records and medicolegal issues.

The book is our sincere effort for helping the special children by creating a stepping stone for those who will be treating them. Also a sincere effort has been made to put all the information together in the form of chapters. Towards the end I would just like to add that........

Great challenges lie in understanding the special child.

Priya Verma Gupta
Amitha M Hegde
As we come towards the end of the book I would like to express my gratitude for those without whose sincere effort this would not have been possible for me to achieve. I would like to express my profound heartfelt gratitude to my mentors and Prof Dr N Sridhar Shetty and Shri NV Hegde for guiding and encouraging me throughout my professional career.

I thank all my contributors for their contributions and timely submissions of the manuscript.

A very special word of thanks to all those wonderful children and special child institutions who were glad to be a part of this book for the sake of knowledge.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the publisher Shri Jitendar P Vij for giving me this opportunity to put my thoughts in the form of words.

I sincerely thank my husband Dr Abhishek Gupta for always being a source of encouragement and support. Mere words will do no justice for describing the immense gratitude I have for him. I would also like to thank my two wonderful kids Aarin and Ansh for being extremely cooperative.

My expression of deepest gratitude goes to my mother Dr GL Verma and mother-in-law Dr Kusum Gupta for their unconditional love, support, blessings and sacrifices. No words can explain their invaluable presence in my life.

Above all I faithfully thank God Almighty for blessing me with such a wonderful family, a loving husband and also for showering his choicest blessing in each and every endeavor of mine, making it worthwhile. I offer my sincere prayers to Him.
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