

Interview with Dr. Michael Rubinstein

"They are some of our favorite patients," says hand and upper-extremity specialist Dr. Michael Rubinstein, referring to the children he and associate Dr. Williams care for. "We treat both children and adults, but the children are always a lot of fun. They're positive, hopeful and most of the time they don't even know they are being examined; they just think we're playing games."

A graduate of Harvard, Dr. Rubinstein, who has three children of his own, understands what the parents are going through when their child is



Dr. Rubinstein

Hand and Upper Extremity Specialists Offer Advanced Pediatric Care for Children

born with a physical deformity. "One of my children had a serious kidney problem when he was still in the womb, and my wife and I had to make some difficult decisions. It was a very stressful time in our life," Says Dr. Rubinstein. "My son is a healthy teenager now, so it looks like we made the right decisions; but that experience is still with me every time I meet a new child patient and their parents."

Rubinstein, who gained valuable experience after Harvard from an additional year's fellowship



Dr. Williams

at the Boston Children's Hospital, tells us that every case is unique. "In Boston we saw just about every

It's amazing how well children can adjust

type of deformity you could imagine, but no two were exactly the same. In every case we take into consideration their current and future stages of development. We then look at all the options so we can find the highest possibility of a normal, healthy, fully functioning life. It's amazing how well children can adjust. Things that parents see as a major obstacles often become little more than minor inconveniences to a developing child."

According to Dr. Rubinstein, when a child has a hand or upper-extremity problem, the first reaction of the parents and their doctor is to look for a referral to a children's hospital. "They should really consider the other option as well: a hand specialist who also understands children." With so few hand and upper-extremity specialists in the field to begin with, it's nice to know we have two of them right here in our own backyard.

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