

**Emory Petrack, MD,
FAAP, FACEP**

Medical Director of the
Pediatric Emergency
Department at
Fairview Hospital



Dr. Petrack is board certified in pediatric emergency medicine and is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians. He earned his medical degree at the State University of New York at Downstate and completed his pediatric residency at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, Bronx, N.Y. Dr. Petrack also holds master's degrees in public health from Harvard University and in organizational development from Case Western Reserve University. He is currently a clinical associate professor at Case Western University School of Medicine.

An Emergency Department Just for Kids

Your 4-year-old broke a glass in the kitchen and has a deep gash on her hand. You rush her to the Emergency Department, trying to keep her calm. But you're anxious, too, about what lies ahead. You figure she'll need stitches, but you know your daughter will be terrified and put up a struggle.

But your fears are quickly eased when your daughter eagerly climbs the stairs of the miniature fire engine that supports the exam table. Before suturing her hand, doctors and nurses show you how to hold your daughter in your lap so she'll feel more secure. During the procedure, staff members distract her by reading her a story and showing her interesting toys.

EXPERTISE AND CARING

At Fairview Hospital, our Pediatric Emergency Department staff understands that children require special care and attention. They need a medical staff with expertise in treating youngsters, using the right-sized equipment. Just as important, they need understanding in an environment that's as soothing and supportive as it is technologically advanced.

"With high-level medical care and a caring, compassionate environment, we're trying to give children and their families the best possible experience they can have at a difficult time," said Emory Petrack, MD, FAAP, FACEP, medical director of the Pediatric Emergency Department (ED) at Fairview Hospital.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the department is staffed primarily by physicians who are board certified in pediatric emergency medicine and registered nurses with advanced training in Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

NOT "LITTLE ADULTS"

Why is having a dedicated Pediatric ED so important? At Fairview Hospital, we under-

**At the Pediatric ED,
Fairview Hospital nurses
take the time to make little
patients feel at ease.**



stand that children can't be treated as "little adults." Because children's bodies are smaller, they need equipment specially designed for their size. *"Using an adult-sized blood pressure cuff on a child, or a child-sized cuff on an infant, can easily result in errors in blood pressure measurements,"* Dr. Petrack said.

At Fairview Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department, our staff works closely with Child Life Specialists to help children and families better understand the hospital experience and cope with illness and injury. The staff also has been trained in the CalmerKids program developed by Dr. Petrack to help ease the anxiety of children receiving emergency care. *"The program shows staff how to position children in certain ways to help them feel more secure during procedures,"* Dr. Petrack said. *"And they use books, music, imagery and toys to distract them and help them feel more relaxed."*

BEFORE YOU GO

Dr. Petrack had these tips on how you can prepare for a trip to the Emergency Department with your child:

- Talk with your pediatrician about the best facility in your area for your child.
- Make a list of medications your child is taking or has taken recently—and bring the list with you.
- Know how to recognize a true emergency. A child needs emergency care when he is having trouble breathing, has severe abdominal pain, has a deep cut requiring stitches, has lost consciousness or is "not acting right."

CALMING ENVIRONMENT

Kid-friendly décor—like brightly colored rooms and special tiles on the ceiling to look at during an exam or procedure—also helps children feel less anxious.

"Fairview Hospital is proud of the exceptional care we provide to children needing emergency services," said Dr. Petrack. *"And a big part of that is providing the emotional and psychological support that makes such a big difference." •*