

Dr. Susan Hughes



"My main goal is always the same: to make sure that each baby is healthy and happy."

Age: 53

Work: Pediatrician

Family: Married, 3 kids

Location: San Francisco, CA

Education : B.S., Harvard University, Pre-Med

M.D., Dartmouth/Brown, Medicine Program, Hanover, NH, & Providence, RI

- Residency and Internship: General Pediatrics, New York Methodist Hospital, New York, NY
- Board Certified in General Pediatrics
- Fellow American Academy of Pediatrics

Hobbies

- Listening to Classical music
- Attending Operas and plays
- Wine tasting in Napa Valley
- Reading in her study

Pet Peeves

- People not picking up their dog droppings. "One day I followed one of those "drive-by-pooper" ladies and scooped up her dog's mess in a bag and placed it on her windshield."

Devices



My name is Dr. Susan Hughes, I have been a practicing pediatrician for the last 25 years. I've been honored to witness more than a thousand births, and treat something north of five hundred children, most of which I have seen as newborns to the point they're crossing the stage as a college graduate.

My job never gets old, every child that I take as a new patient is always a new adventure. There are a lot of common denominators between all children at the very young age, but each and every child has subtle differences. I've seen them all, or at least I think I have seen it all. I haven't really dealt with any Zika-virus cases (knock on wood), but if I do, I am ready for the challenge.

Since I've treated around five hundred or so children, just think of how many parents or guardians I've dealt with. That's right, close to double that! From time-to-time I will have a single parent that comes into my practice. If I were to give you the most difficult part of the job, I would most certainly say it is working with the parents. You would think after 25 years this would be easier as it goes, but no, no, no, this is the most interesting. Naturally, all parents want what is "best" for their child, but what is best has many definitions in the non-medical world, i.e. in normal society. For example, the debate over vaccinations, oh boy, this has been a hot and contentious issue! The times have changed and so have people's belief structures. Nevertheless, my main goal is always the same: to make sure that each baby is healthy and happy.

For infants, I am supposed to see them every two months, which means I have to rely on the whims of the parents' memory until the next visit. Let's face it, people are much busier today than they use to be. People work longer hours and I find are really stressed out over the smallest things. There are a number of distractions, perhaps more than ever, and for some parents to give me a clear account of what their baby went through in a week, let alone 2 months, can be difficult. I remember asking one dad if the baby had hit her head, because I saw a noticeable bruise. He said he didn't know or couldn't recall a time that had happened. A few days later the dad calls back and apologetically explained that his wife knew of the time the baby had hit her head at the daycare, but didn't share that information with him. Supposedly this happened a week and a half ago! It would have been nice to know that, because I could have recommended something to the parents or asked for her to come in. Overall, I have been able to deal with anything that comes my way, but things are supposed to get easier with technology, right?

If could have a clearer understanding of the things happening to the child, the food they are eating, their bow movement patterns, etc. throughout the course of those two months it would make things a bit easier. I think the new pediatricians would appreciate have that information available.