specializes in the oral care of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Compton has treated patients in clinics and operating rooms, with disabilities ranging from mild to severe/profound, including Down’s syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Fragile X syndrome, Angelman’s syndrome and Prader-Willi syndrome.

She has a bachelor of science in Biology, and a minor in Chemistry from Alice Lloyd College, and a DMD (Doctor of Medical Dentistry) from the University of Louisville.

Dr. Compton also has the honor and distinction of being one of only six dentists in the United States to receive post-graduate training via a fellowship in special needs dentistry. The fellowship also included rotations in relevant medical areas including genetics, pediatric medicine and neurology. She completed her fellowship in Developmental Dentistry at the Underwood and Lee Clinic in Louisville, KY.

Prior to Orange Grove, she was employed by Kool Smiles (general dentistry for kids) as an associate dentist.

Her memberships include the Louisville Dental Society, American Dental Association, and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr. Compton is an active participant in Special Olympics activities, including MedFest, a screening for Special Olympics athletes for any dental disease, including urgent treatment needs.

Orange Grove Center is proud to be designated as an affiliate teaching site for the dental hygiene and dental assistant programs at:

Orange Grove Center Dental Clinic
615 Derby Street
Chattanooga, TN 37404
Tel  423 629 1451, ext. 2464
Fax  423 624 1294
dentalclinic@orangegrove.org
www.orangegrovecenter.org

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Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, federal law protects individuals from discrimination. Facilities, programs and services sponsored by Orange Grove Center are available to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

United Way

“Special Needs Dentistry for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

“The shortest distance between two people is a smile.”
**Dental and oral health care** is the 
#1 unmet health care need of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Former United States Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop said, “You’re not healthy without good oral health.”

This is perhaps most significant in the special needs population. The combination of fear of the dentist, access to care, poor home-based oral health and the cognitive-motor and sensory challenges of self-care have resulted in years of oral health care neglect.

Orange Grove Center’s model of collaborative and comprehensive health care includes health promotion, disease management, care giver-family-client education, on-going review of best practices, research and compassionate care.

Nationwide there is a shortage of dentists and dental hygienists who have the training, experience, skills, motivation and specialized equipment to accommodate and treat patients with developmental disabilities. The Orange Grove Dental Clinic has addressed each of these shortcomings, and created a novel and unique setting to insure quality patient care.

Dr. Kristin Compton, Orange Grove’s Director of Dental Services, has the requisite credentials to lead our program and insure that oral health is a top priority.

Founded in 1953, Orange Grove serves more than 700 adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Our mission is to fill the void within Hamilton County and surrounding areas by creating an understanding of the need for oral health care, and by accommodating the increasing number of underserved within the community.

**Why Special Treatment is Needed**

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in most cases, cannot attend to their own oral health care needs. This includes proper oral home care, due to cognitive, behavioral, sensory and neuromotor impairments.

Early detection and treatment can prevent or slow many major health concerns and costly surgeries.

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a higher rate, than most, of periodontal disease, tooth decay and oral infections that can lead to systemic disease. Heart disease and stroke have also been linked to poor dental health.

Studies show that good oral health care can lead to higher self-esteem, improved nutrition and sensory fulfillment.

**Our Services to You**

We consider a patient’s medical, physical and behavioral needs when they are in our care.

One of the hallmarks of both our philosophy and our practice is our embracing of desensitization techniques, the stepwise natural process of reducing, and removing fears and anxiety. Very often the first few visits to our office exclude an actual examination or even a seat in the chair. The patient is always invited and encouraged to a casual and unhurried exploration of the office, the equipment and our staff. There’s plenty of time down the road to hear, “Open wide.”

Our qualified and caring staff will incorporate sensory integration techniques (calm, soothing and relaxing), as the backdrop for accommodating all of our individual patient needs. Our staff is dedicated to providing a safe, inviting and relaxing environment with special attention to the anxiety related to sensory overload.

Services include clinical examinations with radiographs, diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases, restorations (fillings and crowns), extractions and prevention techniques.

With the cooperation of the family and/or caregiver(s), we are also better able to completely understand the specific illness, condition or disability that must be considered during dental treatment.

We make every attempt to ensure that all appointments are short, when possible. We will also work with you on any issues relating to special scheduling. Our hours of operation are, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An appointment today may be a life you save! Contact us to schedule an appointment.

**CLINIC STAFF**

**Kristin Compton, DMD, Director of Dental Services**

**Jeanette Hames, CDA, Dental Assistant**

**Ben L. Tyber, DDS, Consulting Dentist**

*Orange Grove Center is a proud recipient of a grant from the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities to promote and provide access to dental care in the community. The goal of the grant is to bring awareness of the role of oral health in comprehensive health, educate caregivers, families and individuals in their role in oral care, encourage community-based dentists in accepting patients with developmental disabilities into their private practices, and to provide clinical opportunities to dental and dental hygiene students through instruction and “hands-on” training.*