

CITYVIEW [profile]

Have a child with stomach trouble? Here's the help you need.



DR. YOUHANNA AL-TAWIL IS THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF AN EXCEPTIONAL PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY PRACTICE AT EAST TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (ETCH): GI FOR KIDS, PLLC. OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS, DR. AL-TAWIL HAS DEVOTED HIS TIME AND ENERGY TO TREATING CHILDREN WITH STOMACH/INTESTINAL DISORDERS. HE STATES ONE OF HIS GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS IS HELPING SICK CHILDREN AND CONCERNED PARENTS THROUGH THE HEALING PROCESS. DR. AL-TAWIL'S PHILOSOPHY IS THAT HEALTHY CHILDREN AND SATISFIED PARENTS ARE THE BEST ADVOCATES FOR GI FOR KIDS.

GI for Kids, PLLC

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DR. AL-TAWIL IS COMMITTED TO THE IDEA that all children have access to excellent health care, including all the sub-specialties of pediatric medicine. GI for Kids has an open-door policy and tries to accommodate all patients in a timely manner. Prevention is also an important focus of the practice. Treating children with gastroenterology illnesses may be the top priority; however, prevention is the motivation behind the development of the comprehensive staff which serves these patients.

THE GI FOR KIDS TEAM INCLUDES three board certified gastroenterologists, two nurse practitioners, two behavioral clinicians, two registered dietitians, a research coordinator and six registered nurses. These professionals, while treating "sick" children, also provide a variety of kid and family-friendly programs aimed at prevention. The programs include:

BEE FIT 4 KIDS is a family oriented pediatric weight management program.

TRANSITIONS is a behavioral health service that offers education and support for kids and families coping with the child's condition or circumstance.

KIDSFACT (Kids Fighting Against Crohn's and Colitis Together) is a great support system for patients and families who are dealing with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. KidsFACT offers a golf tournament every summer, a Family Fun Day in October, and a Rodeo! This year's Rodeo will be held in Abington, Virginia on June 4, 2011.

CELI-ACT is a support group for patients with Celiac disease. The Celi-ACT group holds an annual vendor fair that is one of the largest of its kind. This year, the fair will be held at the Jacobs building in Chilhowee Park on March 12, 2011.

ALLERGY 4 FOOD is a resource that allows the consumer to access specialized nutritional supplements that may not be available locally.

This service is scheduled to launch by the summer of 2011.

DR. AL-TAWIL BECAME INTERESTED in making a difference in kid's health when he was 12 years old when he experienced a severe illness himself. Throughout his career he has served as Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology at the University of Kentucky and then as Acting Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology at Tulane University. His wife, Dr. Salwa Alkhoury, is a primary care pediatrician at ETCH. They have two children, Mark, age 9, and Laura, age 13. Dr. Al-Tawil loves spending time with his family, enjoys gardening, fishing, and feels blessed to live in this area.

THE MISSION OF GI FOR KIDS is to help make East Tennessee Children's Hospital a Center of Excellence for Pediatric Gastroenterology on a local, regional and national level. Dr. Al-Tawil states, "ETCH is an amazing resource for our community and surrounding counties, and I am committed to helping ETCH build its reputation nationally." GI for Kids is certainly doing its part. The staff treats patients from all over Tennessee, and many of their patients reside outside the state. It is one of the busiest pediatric GI practices in the United States. The official GI for Kids website, www.giforkids.com, is one of the most frequently visited websites regarding pediatric gastroenterology. We encourage you to visit the website for more information.

ALTHOUGH GASTROENTEROLOGY might not be discussed as much as other disease groups such as cancer, arthritis, and alzheimer's, Dr. Al-Tawil has high hopes in the future for his patients, the GI specialty, his practice, and ETCH. Dr. Al-Tawil is committed to serving the children of this region; and since that is also the principle mission of East Tennessee Children's Hospital, GI for Kids is a perfect partner in this effort.