

DitM – The Emotional Journey II_ Erika Hedtcke

Transcript of Audio From the Backstory

[DitM - Erika Hedtcke - 06 Working with Children.mp3](#)

00:00:05 So we work with a lot of children. Most of the time children are either born with a tiny, tiny eye or they don't have an eye that developed at all in utero. And so we start working with them immediately, [when they are] a few days old [or] a few weeks old. We get to see these newborn babies and help them stay symmetrical as they grow but also we get to give the parents hope that they get to experience a normal childhood just like any other kid. And a lot of the times our kids are better patients than adults: they don't know what else to expect so they have nothing else to base this experience on, and they just think it's fascinating.

00:00:46 Sometimes it's a little scary. They've seen a lot of doctors, and just being in a medical facility can make children a little uncomfortable at first, but to watch a child open up and let you make them an eye. And to get to teach them how to put it in and out is awesome. And they actually end up teaching their parents and us way more than we probably even teach them. We get to watch such an innocent human realize all the incredible things that we can do in this world and the science behind it.

00:01:15 We can never make an eye as great as God did, but we can try our best. And it's incredible to watch how a child reacts to that and how excited a child is to show their friends like that they have a prosthetic eye and it's really an inspiring journey to watch.