

Akinyemi Ajayi, M.D., D.,A.B.S.M., F.A.A.S.M., F.C.C.P. Children's Lung, Asthma and Sleep Specialists (CLASS)

ABOUT THE DOCTOR: Dr. Ajayi was born in London, England, to parents of Nigerian descent. He spent his formative years in England and Nigeria and went to medical school at the age of 15. Following his graduation, he worked in Nigeria and England, subsequently moving to New York, where he specialized in pediatrics, and then the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he received his training and instruction in pediatric pulmonary and sleep medicine. He was the first fellow from the institution to achieve board certification in both pulmonary and sleep medicine. **AWARDS/HONORS:** Dr. Ajayi has received several awards such as the Best Doctor and Top Doctor awards, as well as The Patients Choice Award and the Compassionate Physician Award. He is a member of the American College of Chest Physicians, American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the American Thoracic Society. **GREATEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Raising a stable, happy family with his wife, Adena. They have three young daughters who mean everything to him. **GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Graduating from medical school just as he turned 21 felt pretty awesome. Also, taking care of children has always been rewarding. "I have been in medicine since I was a baby and absolutely love it! I can't imagine anything more fun than being a doctor that takes care of children. They are the most rewarding patients and you can't help but feel satisfied every day." **WHAT SETS US APART:** CLASS is the only pediatric pulmonary and sleep medicine practice in Central Florida with its own certified behavioral sleep medicine specialist and offers a full range of sleep services at all of its locations, including sleep evaluations, sleep studies, psychology and cognitive behavioral services. It also has the widest network of office locations, all offering full pulmonary function testing, consultation services and management of conditions like asthma, pneumonia, ventilator dependent care and allergic rhinitis. In addition, the practice offers inpatient services at both Florida Hospital for Children and Arnold Palmer Hospital. **DR. AJAYI'S PHILOSOPHY:** My guiding philosophy is to provide the best care possible and to always be a beacon of hope. "A physician should be a good listener and someone patients can depend on to do his very best regardless of the odds and assumed outcomes even when they appear inevitable. I believe that is what makes a good doctor." **THE RIGHT DIAGNOSIS:** Conditions like narcolepsy can affect patients for life, and early identification is important. Most narcoleptics develop the first signs of disease in early adolescence but are generally misdiagnosed till they become adults. This can have a devastating impact on learning and achievement. Also conditions like sleep apnea and sleep fragmentation can mimic behavioral disorders like ADHD; hence early identification and treatment is important to avoid stigmatizing the children.

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