



## Parent Guidelines

Dear Parents,

We promise, we will care for your child as if they are our own. We are aware that the dental office can be a frightening place for a child, we do everything we can to prevent dental anxiety and we have a way of reversing it if your child has already had a bad experience. Please wait patiently in the waiting room as we bring your child back for treatment, if we need you or your little one needs you, we will be sure to let you know. It is always a good idea to start preparing your child for treatment at home. Books about going to the dentist can be very helpful. It is important to avoid negative conversation about the dentist, keep it positive and fun!

We ask that you follow the guidelines below to help make this a positive experience for your child:

1. Allow us to prepare your child. We will *tell* your child about the procedure, then *show* them what we will do, then we will *do* what we explained.
2. Be supportive of our practice's terminology. We are *very* selective with our word choice; try to use the same terms to avoid scaring your child. We are not trying to "fool" anyone, rather create an experience that is positive.

### Don't Use These Words

Needle or Shot

Pull or yank a tooth

Decay or cavity

Clean your teeth

Drill

Explorer

Suction

Nitrous

### Use These Words

Sleepy Juice

Wiggle a tooth out

Sugar bugs

Tickle and polish your teeth

Mr. Whistles and Mr. Bumpy

Tooth counter

Mr. Thirsty

Silly gas

3. If by special circumstances, you are invited back during treatment, please sit quietly so we can maintain communication with your child.
4. If at anytime we feel it is unsafe for the clinician or the child to continue treatment, we will get to a stopping point and have you come back another day or consider referring to a pediatric dentist.
5. If your child is too worked up about treatment, and we are unable to calm them down, we may suggest referral to a pediatric dentist or sedation options.

\*These are very important ways that you can actively help in the success of your child's visit. We are confident that these guidelines will help us together make your child's dental visit a positive experience.