



## INFORMED CONSENT FOR PEDIATRIC DENTAL TREATMENT

One of our most important parental policies is to "inform before we perform." Before we begin treating your child, we ask your permission for periodic dental examinations, x-rays, dental cleanings and fluoride applications. We also need your permission to perform dental treatments, restorations and/or appliances as needed to return all teeth to health and proper function, using local anesthetic and a comfortable mouth prop. The purpose of all these procedures is to gain and maintain dental health, and we expect good results, although no guarantees as to the results may be given.

Although our goal is the best oral health for your child, there are some slight risks involved in getting to that goal. Very rarely, dental treatment may be associated with numbness, bleeding, discoloration, soreness, upset stomach, dizziness, allergic reaction, swelling and infection. But ignoring a known dental problem has an even greater risk. Not treating existing dental problems in children may result in abscess, infection, pain, fever, swelling, considerable risk to the developing adult teeth, and may create future orthodontic and gum problems.

A visit to the dental office presents the young child with lots of new and unfamiliar experiences. It is completely normal for some children to react to these new experiences by crying. All efforts will be made to gain the confidence and cooperation of our young patients by warmth, humor, gentle understanding and friendly persuasion. High quality dental care for children is our goal. Quality care can be made very difficult or even impossible, by the lack of cooperation. Behaviors that can interfere with proper dental treatment are hyperactivity, resistive movements, refusing to open the mouth or keep it open, and even aggressive or physical resistance to treatment. Aggressive or physical resistance to treatment can be screaming, hitting, kicking and grabbing the dentist's hands or grabbing our sharp dental instruments.

There are several behavior management techniques that are used in our office to help children get the quality dental care they need. Let us tell you about them:

- a. **TELL-SHOW-DO** is the use of simple explanations and demonstrations, geared to the child's level of maturity.
- b. **POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT** is rewarding the helpful child with compliments, praise, a hug or a prize.
- c. **VOICE CONTROL** is getting the attention of a noisy child by using firm commands and varying tones of voice.
- d. **PHYSICAL RESTRAINT BY THE DENTAL TEAM or BY LEGAL GURDIAN.** With an active and noisy child, it is sometimes necessary for the dental assistant to restrain the child's movement by holding the head, arms, hands or legs. The dentist may restrain the child's head by stabilizing it between arm and body. A rubber or plastic mouth prop is placed in the child's mouth to prevent closing when the child refuses to open or has trouble keeping the mouth open.
- e. **PHYSICAL RESTRAINT BY PAPOOSE BOARD OR PEDI-WRAP.** The use of this type of restraint is a standard of care in medicine. The Papoose Board or Pedi-wrap is the safest and most compassionate way to ensure quality dental treatment of an active child. It holds arms, body and

legs secure with Velcro and cloth wraps during treatment. It may be used when emergency treatment is necessary, or for a short period to obtain X-rays and most commonly concomitant with sedative medication.

f, LAUGHING GAS (Nitrous-Oxide/ Oxygen Inhalation sedation). The use of laughing gas (nitrous oxide) is another safe way to provide dental treatment to mildly frightened, but helpful children. Laughing gas calms children, but does not put them to sleep or numb their teeth. It has few side effects and lasts only as long as the gas is being given through a nose mask. On rare occasions, the gas can cause an upset stomach and vomiting.

Beyond these techniques, a child with disruptive behavior may need dental treatment with sedation or treatment in a hospital, which is covered in a separate consent form.

I have read and understand this information on behavior management. I understand that dental treatment for children includes efforts to guide their behavior by helping them understand the treatments in terms appropriate to their age. If any treatment other than the above is needed, it will be discussed with me before beginning such treatment. I understand that I may refuse any or all of the above treatments or procedures. I can do this by drawing a line through the objectionable part and writing my initials next to the portion to which I refuse to consent.

This consent will remain in full force unless withdrawn in writing by the person who has signed on behalf of this minor patient.

---

PRINT CHILD'S NAME      PARENT'S or GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE      TODAY'S DATE

\_\_\_\_\_ WITNESS

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ AND SIGN THIS IMPORTANT FORM