

Your Child's Dental Visit

At Gentle Dental Care, we enjoy treating children. Each of our dentists has children of their own and appreciates the fact every child is special. With over 90 years of combined experience treating children, we would like to offer the following suggestions to get your child started on the path to optimal dental health. Support, encouragement and (if necessary) enforcement of thorough daily brushing of teeth is the single most important thing that you can do for your child dentally. It should be positive time together with your child. Please accept responsibility for making sure your child's teeth are brushed really well every day.

Leave the details to us:

A dental visit is an everyday occurrence and should be treated as such by the parent. If you take a matter-of-fact approach, your child should be receptive to our care. If you are nervous about their visit, it is likely that your child will be nervous also. Please let us explain the treatment to your child. A well meaning parent who over-explains can make our job more difficult. It is better for the dental team to inform the child at the time of treatment; therefore it is perfectly acceptable for you to say very little before the visit. Let us do it. If a young child presses you for the details, simply tell them that we will be looking at cleaning their teeth. There is no need to get fancy.

Dental x-rays:

For most children, we take dental x-rays as part of the exam. The dentist will decide what is appropriate for each child. If you should bring x-rays from another dental office, they must be recent to be of any value. We are conservative in the number of x-rays we take, but they are an important part of care. For a few young children we may postpone x-rays to a later date. Parents who refuse x-rays for their children should cancel treatment with us and seek dental care elsewhere.

Dental Examination:

After we have completed the dental exam, we will discuss our findings with you and provide ample opportunity for questions and discussion.

Dental Treatment:

Children are many things, but they are not stupid. Therefore, a few may become emotional in the hope that you, the parent, will intervene and remove them from the dental setting altogether. This is one reason why it is best if the parent is not present in the dental treatment room. While a few children may be emotional, most will calm down shortly. We will speak with your child and explain aspects of care to them. We enjoy the opportunity to win your child's trust. As long as we are making progress we will continue. If after several minutes, we feel that we are not making progress, we will stop and discuss options with the parent before proceeding. Therefore, please give us the chance to win your child's trust. With rare exceptions (for children under 4), parents will be expected to remain in the waiting room during dental treatment. Our staff will still take the time to discuss treatment with you in person at the appropriate time during the appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide dental care to your children. A child's smile is what makes it worthwhile for all of us. We look forward to seeing you soon.

-The Staff of Gentle Dental Care