

Pediatric Dental Patient Guidance Techniques

We deliver professional care in our dental offices with the highest degree of quality for each child. Sometimes a child's apprehension or nervousness can interfere with the ability to address the child's dental needs. All efforts will be made to obtain the cooperation and trust of the child through the use of warmth, friendliness, persuasion, humor, charm, gentleness, kindness, and understanding.

The following methods may be used to encourage your child to participate:

1. **Tell-Show-Do:** The dentist or assistant explains to the child what is to be done using simple terminology and repetition and then shows the child what is to be done by demonstrating with instruments on a model or the child or dentist's finger. Then the procedure is performed in the child's mouth as described. Praise is used to reinforce cooperative behavior.
2. **Positive Reinforcement:** This technique rewards the child who displays any behavior, which is desirable. Rewards include compliments, praise, a pat on the back, a hug, or a prize.
3. **Voice Control:** The attention of unfocused patients is gained by changing the tone of the dentist's voice. Content of the conversation is less important than the request; however, the content should always include only appropriate requests – ones that provide clear direction while also encouraging the child.
4. **Mouth Props:** A rubber or plastic aide is placed in the child's mouth to prevent closing when a child has trouble maintaining an open mouth.
5. **Patient Immobilization by the Dentist:** The dentist prevents the child from moving by gently holding the child's hands or upper body, stabilizing the child's head, or positioning the child to limit movement in the dental chair.
6. **Patient Immobilization by the Assistant:** The assistant prevents the child from moving by holding the child's hands, stabilizing the head, and/or stabilizing leg movements.
7. **Medical Immobilization / Papoose Board:** This is an immobilization aide for limiting the child's unanticipated movements to prevent injury and to enable the dentist to provide the necessary treatment. The child is comfortably placed in the pediatric immobilization aide and placed in a reclined dental chair.
8. **Nitrous Oxide:** Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen inhalation is a safe and effective technique to reduce anxiety, produce analgesia, and enhance communication between the dentist and the patient. This is commonly referred to as "laughing gas." The patient **does not** become unconscious.

Note. If you have questions regarding the methods listed above, please contact a front office or clinical staff member immediately. We want your child's dental experience to be a pleasant one while also ensuring we complete any or all of your child's required dental work with your child's safety and the safety of our clinical staff in mind.

I, (parent or guardian) of _____ acknowledge that I have read and understand the "Office Policy Regarding Patient Treatment" on the front side of this form and have reviewed the "Pediatric Dental Patient Guidance Techniques" above give consent for their use. All of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Signed Parent or Guardian

Relationship to Patient

Date