



GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS IN TREATMENT AREAS

Dear Parents:

You may choose whether or not to accompany your child to the treatment area for his/her appointment.

However, we sense that most children do better without parents being present and respectfully make that recommendation to you. Our goal is not only to provide your child with state-of-the-art dental care, but to help them build the skills necessary to develop a positive relationship with professional health care providers. Our ability to help children in this way is almost always minimized by parents' presence.

We ask that siblings remain in the reception area for the duration of the appointment.

If siblings are not mature enough to occupy themselves in the reception area with minimal supervision, please remain with them so we can proceed with your child's treatment without interruption.

If you choose to be present, we suggest the following guidelines to improve the chances of a positive outcome:

1. Allow us to prepare your child.
2. Be supportive of the practices positive attitude and terminology.
 - a. We don't use "needles" or "shots", we use "sleepy juice so your tooth can't feel anything."
 - b. We don't "drill" teeth; we "scrub" them.
 - c. We don't "pull" or "yank" teeth; we "wiggle" them.
 - d. "Be brave" is not a useful phrase. This implies that there is something to fear, and this is not the message we want to send. Please encourage them to "be a good helper."
3. **Please be a silent observer**
 - a. This allows us to maintain communication with your child.
 - b. 3-way communication is ineffective, confusing for your child, and prevents us from developing a positive relationship with them.
 - c. You may give incorrect or misleading information
4. If asked to leave, be ready to immediately walk away.
 - a. "Acting out" is normal, but not acceptable during treatment.
 - b. Many children will try to control the situation by exhibiting uncooperative behavior.
 - c. We will not restrain your child.
 - d. We will continue to support your child at all times

These are very important ways that you can actively help in the success of your child's visit. We are confident that all will go well and hope that these guidelines will help prepare you with confidence for the upcoming appointment. If you have any concerns or questions about this policy, please notify our office before your child's appointment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennings, Dr. Perrett, & Staff