



## Pre-Operative Information for Parents

Your child has an appointment scheduled for dental surgery. To make his/her visit as comfortable as possible, please review the following information prior to this appointment.

We will make every effort to make your child's visit a pleasant experience. Please remember that the procedures planned are performed in the mouth and that for most people, the face and the mouth are within the individuals 'personal space.' As such, we need to establish a rapport with the individual to make our presence there as relaxed as possible. We do this in a number of ways including conversation and tell-show-do.

We have found that for many children, it is best if they are not prepared before the surgical visit with information from other sources. We ask that if your child has questions about what will be done at a future visit, that these questions be written on a piece of paper that the child can bring with them to that visit for our staff to answer. Information from outside sources is often less than accurate and requires additional explanation and comforting that makes the child's visit more difficult.

Teachers will tell you that the most difficult days to teach are those days when parents are in the classroom. This is because most children want to show their parents what they are doing or 'act out' for their parents. In either situation, the teacher does not have the child's full and undivided attention and the learning environment is disrupted. We find a similar situation in the dental operatory with parents present. Children want to communicate with parents rather than the doctor or assistant.

Our goal is to teach the child about dental procedures so they will have an understanding about what is being done and what they can do to make the visit as easy and comfortable as possible. A child that is attentive has a better opportunity for this to occur. For this reason, we recommend that parents wait for their child in our reception area. If you feel you need to be present, we ask that only one parent observe and that this be a quiet observation with no vocal interaction with the child. Also, please respect instructions from dental assistants about safe locations for where you can observe the surgical procedures.

We ask that siblings or others also not be in the operative areas as this also interferes with our ability to communicate effectively with your child. In addition, equipment and instruments can and do create a hazard to other children.

Your child's safety is of the most importance to us and we ask that you assist us with this goal of creating a safe working environment. We want to care for your child in the most compassionate, gentle and safe environment possible and strive to make every visit the best possible.

Thank you for your help in achieving these goals.

*John T. Fales, Jr., D.D.S., M.S.*

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