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Pediatric Dentistry
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Dear Parents:

Children are a precious gift to all of us. I assure you that as a pediatric dentist I have enjoyed many wonderful moments introducing children to pleasant dental experiences. However, age, ability to understand, attitudes, fears, and many other variables may interfere with proper dental treatment. For this reason, after thorough research, behavioral techniques have been developed and taught to aid the dental staff help your child cope with his/her anxiety.

Children (and sometimes parents) may experience separation-anxiety. Crying is a normal behavior when apprehension exists. Do not be upset if this occurs. We are used to this behavior and are trained on how to handle it.

In pediatric dentistry some techniques used regularly include:

- Voice Control - changing voice tone to get child's attention and cooperation.
- Tapping a child's shoulder to get their attention.
- Holding the child's hands and/or head during certain procedures, i.e. injection.
- Pressuring the cheeks or earlobes during injection to make the "pinching" of the local anesthetic easier by distraction.

All these techniques have one goal. These techniques allow the dental team to perform proper dental treatment while avoiding any harm to your child, i.e. such as the danger of a child grabbing the doctor's hand during treatment. The techniques make dentistry safe for both your child and our staff.

Children are usually in constant motion. It is not an easy task to keep them still with their mouth open for 30 minutes. Therefore, sometimes children may not like to be told what to do and may perceive some of these techniques as "mean". This is not unusual for the younger patient. Therefore, we try at all times to give positive reinforcement to the child when cooperating and try to explain "in their own words" what we are trying to accomplish. There is no behavior management technique that causes physical harm to your child; on the contrary, they are all meant to avoid this.

If further techniques such as the use of nitrous oxide analgesia (laughing gas), IV anesthesia, or the use of the blanket restraint (papoose board) may be needed, before their use a member of the staff will discuss them with you and get informed consent.

Thank you.

Parent Signature