



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your aim as a parent/guardian and ours as a kids dental care office is the same - to keep your child's teeth and mouth in good health by preventing dental decay, gum disease, poor eating habits and crowding or space problems. In addition, we hope to make the process for doing so a pleasant one for the child, parent and dentist. The purpose of this letter is to outline some of our procedures during the first office visits. Below you will find the answers to some common questions asked about our office. If you have other questions about your child's teeth and dental development, or the office, our staff will be pleased to try and answer them at any time.

What will be done on the first visit?

On the first visit your child will have a thorough clinical examination and evaluation of his/her teeth, supporting structures and occlusion (bite). Appropriate radiographs (x-rays) may be taken as necessary. Both of these procedures are necessary to accurately diagnose and determine what work is needed and if tooth development is proceeding normally. After studying the x-rays and examination record, you will be informed of the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan at either the first, or in some cases, the second visit. An estimate of fees can be printed for any treatment, if required for insurance or personal reasons.

Do you allow parents in the operatory?

Many younger or pre-cooperative aged children feel more comfortable with their parent(s) present, and this may be an asset for behavior management. In such a case, we welcome your assistance. However, for children who are old enough to understand well enough to take part in active treatment, we may ask you to remain in the waiting room during treatment. In order to establish a friendly rapport, your child needs to develop trust in us. In this way, on a one-to-one basis, the trust will develop. We will thoroughly explain each of our procedures to your child in terms that he/she can understand before we do it. Afterwards, we will invite you into the operative area so that we may review your child's history, diagnosis, or specific problems.

What treatment follows the initial visit?

Usually on the second or a subsequent visit, both you and your child will be taught appropriate home tooth brushing and flossing techniques along with overall mouth care by one of our qualified staff members. He/she will have his/her teeth cleaned and receive a topical fluoride treatment.

Our recall schedule calls for semi-annual (or often, quarterly) visits to our hygiene area. In this way your child's ever-changing growth and development and preventive oral care can be closely monitored. Dental work will be completed as expediently as possible. If the need exists, urgent work will be started on the second visit in advance of the hygiene treatment.

The preventive approach to good dental care also includes a knowledge and daily practice of recommended "common sense" nutrition. Your child's eating habits are our concern. Suggestions can be made to overcome eating problems, on increasing menu quality, and encourage new ways of looking at food patterns. Thus, dental and medical expenses would be reduced through better eating habits.

Are there different ways to pay for the dental visits?

Financial arrangements for treatment and other dental services are kept strictly confidential. Options for payment include cash, credit cards and debit. Check on the status of your insurance company regarding coverage and payment, as policies differ on an individual basis.

We aim to handle the financial aspect of your child's care as expediently and as pleasant as the treatment itself. Please feel comfortable discussing methods of payment for dental services with our receptionists at the front desk. This can be done in person or via the telephone.

What information do you need about my child prior to the first visit?

Other than addresses, phone numbers, and Health Care numbers we need to familiarize ourselves with pertinent medical information about your child. Please have the enclosed Medical/Dental History form filled in when you arrive for the first visit. Present it to one of our receptionists and they will enter the basic information into our computer system. Then one of our staff will invite your child into the operatory for the examination and/or x-ray procedures.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Hopefully it is self-explanatory. If not, please feel free to inquire further with our staff. We all look forward to meeting you and your child soon.

Sincerely,

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