



## Post-Procedure Instructions

**Mild swelling and discomfort are normal following some dental procedures. However, if your child experiences significant swelling or severe pain, please call our office so it can be properly managed. Remember, it is important to brush and keep the area around new dental treatment clean, even if your child complains of discomfort.**

### **Stainless Steel Crowns**

Your child's tooth has been covered with a fitted crown to strengthen the tooth, thereby allowing your child to maintain that tooth until it naturally falls out. The gum tissue surrounding the tooth may appear to be bleeding, purple or gray. This is normal as the crown is fit closely to the gum tissue. Once your child has a crown they should avoid eating sticky or chewy candies. Eating these candies could cause the crown to become loose or come off completely. If this happens, keep the crown and call the office immediately for an appointment to have it put back on.

### **Dental Fillings**

After the placement of dental fillings, teeth may often be sensitive to hot, cold and pressure for a brief period of time. It is not uncommon for recently filled teeth to require several weeks to feel "normal" again. Pulpotomy When your child receives a nerve treatment, it is usually NOT necessary to prescribe any pain medication. Children that do experience discomfort usually do fine with Tylenol or Ibuprofen (follow the directions on the bottle.)

### **Dental Extractions**

After dental extractions, your child will have gauze pressure packs placed to control normal bleeding. Most dental extractions are routine and it is unlikely your child will need any pain medication or antibiotics. **DO NOT** allow your child to suck from a straw or drink carbonated beverages for 48 hours- this could prolong bleeding and healing.

### **Space Maintainer**

A space maintainer has been placed to prevent teeth from drifting into the space meant for a permanent tooth. Avoid hard or sticky foods, these could dislodge the appliance. If the appliance becomes loose or dislodged, call the office for an appointment immediately. The space maintainer will be continuously evaluated at each appointment to determine the appropriate time for removal.

### **Local Anesthetic**

Your child's mouth may be "numb" for up to 4-6 hours. Watch them closely to see that your child does not bite, scratch or injure the cheek, lips or tongue. Some children become very upset (even crying) and complain of pain when they realize their mouth feels "different." Many children are unfamiliar with this numb sensation and associate this with pain.