

## Parents

In order for us to develop a patient/doctor relationship with your child, we ask that you stay in the waiting room during your child's treatment. Children act differently without the parents around and in this way, we can get to know your child better.

Don't worry. We will never do a procedure without your consent. We take a great amount of time explaining every thing we do to the child and will to you. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask, and encourage your child to ask as well. We also take time to work through any fears the child may have of the dentist and our surroundings. That is why we allot as much time as an adult being treated.

During the first visit, we talk to the child, answer questions, do a cleaning, take x-rays (after age 6), give a fluoride treatment and give a complete head, neck, and oral exam. For younger children, we will complete as much as the child will allow us. Afterwards, we will bring the parent(s) into the room, discuss our findings, treatment plan and costs, and answer costs.

We will not force your child to do anything. This only encourages fear and dislike of dentists as well as other doctors. Please do not threaten or use "scare tactics" to get your child to cooperate with us. If we absolutely can not get your child to cooperate, we may refer her/him to a pedodontist (a dentist who specializes in child dentistry). It is not worth scaring the child so that she/he never wants to visit the dentist again.

We encourage preventive treatment such as fluoride treatments, x-rays, sealants and preventive orthodontic. If you have any questions or concerns about these, please feel free to ask. We feel it is easier and less expensive to prevent a problem.

We also try to discourage any bad oral habits, such as thumb sucking, poor oral hygiene and tobacco or drug use. We will teach your child to brush and floss and expect her/him to do so everyday and before every dental appointment. If a child does not have time to brush before appointments, we have plenty of toothbrushes here and will provide them to use when they get here.

Parents of teenagers, please try to come to the visits with your child or let us know somehow of your concerns. Communication between us and you is broken when you do not attend with them. Also, we assume that since your child is coming alone, that she/he is responsible enough to make their own decisions concerning their dental health and the billing.

Also, if you have more than one child with you, please encourage them to wait in the waiting room during the others' treatment to avoid distraction when we are talking with the child or you.

Thank you for respecting this office policy and We look forward to getting to know your child and you.

Dr. Armstead & Staff