



Parental Agreement and Guidelines

Parents are welcome to accompany their child into the treatment area during the initial examination, this give you the opportunity to see our dental team in action as well as allowing the doctors to discuss dental findings and treatment needs directly with you. **We do ask that if you choose to accompany your child, you assume the role of a *silent observer*. Your presence is greatly enhanced if you play a passive role.** If more than one person is speaking to your child, they may become confused. Cooperation and trust must be established **directly** between Dr. Banks or the dental assistants and your child, not through you. We also ask that siblings remain in the reception room or the play area. There also may be times when a child's experience is enhanced by a parent's absence. The following is a brief explanation of some of the methods we use to guide your child's behavior and to provide a positive dental experience. Since every child is unique, no list can be 100% complete so other useful methods may be explained as needed.

TELL - SHOW - DO

This is *the most* important tool for teaching your child. Your child is **told** in simple terms what is going to be done. They are then **shown** what is going to be done. Finally, the procedure is performed.

VERBAGE

When talking with your children, we use simple terms describing what is going to be done. For example, a dental exam becomes "counting your teeth!" A dental prophylaxis (cleaning) becomes "brushing and tickling your teeth!" These terms are friendlier & help to provide a better experience for your child. We encourage you to use these terms as well when speaking with your child about their dental experience.

DISTRACTION

Sometimes it is necessary to distract your child from an unpleasant sensation by focusing his/her thoughts on something other than what is being done at that moment. We've found that movies are a great assistant in this task.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

This is a technique used to reinforce good behavior by praising your child or providing a reward directly following a desired response. This promotes continued good behavior.

VOICE CONTROL

Voice control is a controlled change of voice volume, tone or pace to influence and direct your child's behavior. This technique is used to establish a line of communication between Dr. Banks and your child.

These guidelines are in place to ensure that we can provide the best and most positive dental experience for your child. Please feel free to speak with anyone in our office if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide exceptional dental care for your child.