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## Parent Guidelines for Treatment

Here are the principles that allow us to deliver quality care at each visit for your child, and we insist on quality care. You may choose whether or not to accompany your child to his/her treatment appointment. Although we sense that some children do better without parents present, we are open to having you with your child. If you choose to be present, we have the following guidelines to improve chances of a positive outcome:

- One adult is invited to be present during dental care in the treatment room. Once we begin we cannot “switch out” parents as distractions tend to cause more anxiety.
- Infants and children must remain in the reception area with a parent or designated adult. Children in the treatment room can be distracting and create a safety hazard.
- Please allow us to prepare your child.
- Be supportive of the practice’s terminology.
- Please be a silent “helper” – support your child with touches.
  - This allows us to build rapport and trust with your child.
  - We must maintain communication with your child to provide appropriate guidance.
  - Children will listen to the voice they love and we cannot compete.
  - Parents want to help but may give incorrect or misleading information.
- If asked to leave, be ready to immediately walk away.
  - You may remain near the room, but out of sight.
  - Some children are more emotional with a parent present, which can prevent a positive outcome.
  - We will support your child at all times, even if you prefer not to be present.

**Practice Terminology:** in order to improve the chances of your child having a positive experience in our office, we are selective in our use of words. We try to avoid words that are perceived as scary to children. Please support us by NOT USING negative words that are often used for dental care. These include:

**DO NOT SAY:**

Needle or shot  
Drill  
Drill Tooth  
Cavity  
Pull or yank out tooth  
Examination  
Rubber dam

**PLEASE SAY:**

Sleepy Juice  
Tooth tickler  
Tickle out Sugar Bugs  
Sugar Bugs  
Wiggle a tooth  
Count teeth  
Raincoat

This will also help you understand your child’s description of their dental office experience. Our intention is not to “fool” your child – it is to create an experience that is positive for your child by engaging their imagination in a fun and creative way. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us build a good foundation for your child’s dental future. These principles are designed to allow parents to actively support a positive dental visit. We are confident that all will go well and hope these guidelines will help prepare you with confidence for the upcoming appointment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_