



Practice Terminology and Parent Guidelines

Dear Parents:

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 scare the child due to previous experiences. Please support us by NOT USING negative words that are often used for dental care. These include:

DON'T USE:

Needle or shot
Drill
Drill on tooth
Pull or yank on tooth
Decay, cavity
Examination
Tooth cleaning
Explorer
Rubber dam
Gas

OUR EQUIVALENT:

sleepy juice
whistle
clean a tooth
wiggle a tooth out
sugar bug
count teeth
tickle teeth
tooth pick
raincoat
magic air

This will help you understand your child's description of the dental experience. Our intention is not to "Fool" the child – it is to create an experience that is positive. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us build a good attitude for your child!

You may choose whether or not to remain in the waiting room during your child's filling 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 suggest the following guidelines to improve chances of positive outcome.

1. Allow us to prepare your child.
2. Be supportive of the practice's terminology.
3. Please be a silent observer – support your child with touches.
 - a. This allows us to maintain communication with your child.
 - b. Children will normally listen to their parents instead of us and may not hear our guidance.
 - c. You might give incorrect or misleading information.
4. If asked to leave, be ready to immediately walk away.
 - a. Many children try to control the situation.
 - b. "Acting out" is normal, but unacceptable during fillings.
 - c. This intended to "short circuit the control attempt."
 - d. We will continue to support your child at all times.

These are very important ways that you can actively help in the success of your child's visit. We are confident that all will go well and hope the guidelines will help prepare you with confidence for the upcoming appointment.

Date _____ Signature _____

Print Name _____