

## First Appointment Questions and Answers

### ➤ How may I best prepare my child if this is their first visit?

You can play a large part in preparing your youngster for their first visit to the dentist. Try to act relaxed and at ease. Any anxiety on your part will probably be sensed by your child. Tell your child that we will "count" and "take pictures" of his/her teeth. Do not use any fear provoking words such as "hurt, drill, pull, and needle." Avoid statements like "the doctor will not hurt you". If I say to you, "Don't think of a banana!" what is the first thing you think of? A banana! It's the same with the word "hurt".

We will thoroughly explain each of our procedures to your child in terms that they can understand. You are welcome into the operatory with your child. Rest assured that we will treat your children as considerately as we treat our own and do everything we can to make you and your child feel as safe and comfortable as possible.

### ➤ What will the first visit consist of?

At this visit, we will emphasize oral hygiene techniques to be practiced by both you and your child, as well as answer any questions you may have. A full examination of the teeth and supporting structures will be done. X-rays will be taken as *necessary* to assure a thorough and comprehensive examination. Subsequent appointments may be scheduled, if needed. When treatment has been completed, your child will be placed on a periodic exam schedule.

### ➤ What is our philosophy of treatment?

Our emphasis is on "prevention" both in the office and at home. We recommend regular exams, cleanings and fluoride, as well as positive and thorough home care. Home care includes limited sweets, brushing two times a day, and flossing at least once a day, preferably before bedtime, and sometimes a topical application of fluoride. Because the primary teeth form the basis of the adult dentition, we will do everything possible to preserve the integrity of your child's dentition while fostering a healthy and relaxed attitude toward dental care. We offer a full range of dental services for children, adolescents, and the exceptional child, including restorative, preventive dental care, and orthodontics.

The doctor will always be happy to discuss any and all treatment options with you and the office staff will do their best to answer any of your questions or concerns regarding fees, payments, or insurance coverage.

Your aim as a parent, and our aim, is the same: To keep your child's teeth and mouth in good health and to make the process of doing so a pleasant one for everyone.