

## FAQ: CHILDREN'S FIRST VISIT

Dear Patient,

Now that you have arranged for your child's first visit to our office, there may be some questions you would like to ask which we will be happy to answer at any time. However, the following are questions that many parents ask and we hope the answers here will be helpful to you and to your child.

1. How may I best prepare my child if this is his/her first visit and what is the procedure at the visit?

You play a large part in preparing your youngster for his/her first visit to the dentist. Be relaxed, as 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, then will show you both how to clean the teeth. Don't use any fear provoking words such as "hurt, drill, pull and needle". Avoid statements like "the doctor won't hurt you".

We will thoroughly explain each of our procedures to your child in terms he/she can understand. We will treat your child as we do our own, but will ask you to remain in the reception area during the examination. Nevertheless, we expect to see crying in some children, since this is a normal response to a strange situation.

At this visit we will emphasize oral hygiene techniques. A full examination of both teeth and supporting structures will be done and occlusion (bite) will be evaluated. X-Rays will be taken as necessary (not routinely) to assure a thorough and comprehensive examination.

2. What is your philosophy of treatment?

Our emphasis is on "prevention" from early home oral hygiene and control of eating "sweets" to topical fluoride treatment. 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 in a pleasant atmosphere.

Your aim as a parent and ours as his/her dental professionals are 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 child, parent and dentist.

Cordially,

V.A. DaCosta