

Pre-Operative Instructions (Pediatric)

Many children are calm, comfortable and confident in a pediatric dental office. Because pediatric dentists specialize in treating children, they make them feel special. This office is especially designed for children. Staff members choose to work in pediatric dental offices because they enjoy children.

Sometimes, however, a child feels anxious during some treatments. Your child may need more support than a gentle caring manner to feel comfortable.

Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen is a safe technique to calm a child's fear of a dental visit. It is a blend of two gases, oxygen and nitrous oxide. When inhaled, it is absorbed by the body and has a calming effect. Normal breathing eliminates nitrous oxide/oxygen from the body.

Your child will smell a sweet, pleasant aroma and experience a sense of well-being and relaxation while nitrous oxide/oxygen is being administered.

Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen is perhaps the safest sedative in dentistry. It is non-addictive. It is mild, easily taken, then quickly eliminated by the body. Your child will remain fully conscious and keep all natural reflexes when breathing nitrous oxide/oxygen.

Pediatric dentists know that all children are not alike! Every service is tailored to your child as an individual. Nitrous oxide/oxygen is not effective for some children, especially those who have severe anxiety, nasal congestion, extensive treatment needs, or discomfort wearing a nasal mask. Pediatric dentists have comprehensive specialty training and can offer other behavior management options that are right for your child.

Before the appointment where Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen (laughing gas) will be used with local anesthesia:

Please give your child little or no food before the dental visit. (Occasionally, nausea or vomiting occurs when a child has a full stomach.)

Please tell your pediatric dentist about any respiratory condition that makes breathing through the nose difficult for your child. It may limit the effectiveness of nitrous oxide/oxygen.

Please tell your pediatric dentist if your child is taking any medication on the day of the appointment.