



Dear Parent,

During your child's first visit to Autumn Lake Dental, you and your child will become familiar with our office, our staff and our methods. We will make a great effort to ensure that you and your child feel comfortable in this new environment. We encourage parents to accompany their children during the initial visit. This introduces parents to our treatment surroundings, allowing Dr. Ton to discuss his initial dental findings, and provides parents with a general idea of our philosophies. Depending upon your child's response during this initial visit, Dr. Ton will provide recommendations for the following visits. If you accompany your child into the treatment area during subsequent visits, we suggest that you act as a silent & supportive observer only. It is very important for us to establish cooperation and trust directly with your child, as this will help your child begin to form a long lasting relationship with our team, which should precipitate a positive outlook on children's dentistry.

At subsequent restorative visits, the dentist may recommend that your child enter the dental operatory room on their own or may have a parent first help them get situated in the dental chair and then return to the waiting room. During these type visits, a dental assistant will always accompany and stay with your child. Most parents agree that children tend to be more cooperative for other adults, especially uniformed professionals, than for their own parents.

This is because your own child understands exactly how their responses affect your underlying emotions. When accompanied by a parent, children almost exclusively focus on the parent in an attempt to elicit a response. This, in turn, makes it much more difficult to provide safe and effective care. It has been proven that children are also effective at reading anxiety and fear in a parent's expressions and mannerisms. On the other hand, when a parent is not present during care, children tend to focus directly on the doctor and dental assistant who are continuously providing calm explanations, directions and distractions throughout the appointment.

Children also subconsciously understand a level of trust that accompanies allowing them to be escorted by a dental assistant alone for care. They realize that their parents would never put them in a situation where they could be harmed; therefore this provides a calming effect. When you allow your child to be alone for care, you are encouraging independence. Your child will be proud that he is "doing it by himself". You are also letting your child know that you believe he is capable! Children whose parents believe they are capable become capable (and vice versa). However, we ask that should you not be completely comfortable with this method, please discuss this well prior to your child's restorative visit.

We are happy to discuss additional options, such as obtaining periodic updates while in the waiting room, sneaking a peek into the operatory during treatment, or even remaining in the operatory room throughout the visits. Ultimately, we want both you and your child to be completely comfortable at every visit to our office. Should you decide that you want to remain in the room during treatment, we will need to know well in advance so we can schedule additional treatment time.

Autumn Lake Dental