First Aid for Dental Emergencies

Follow the instructions below when a child has a dental emergency.

★ In all situations, reassure the child.
★ If any blood is involved, it is recommended that you wear gloves.
★ Do not administer any pain relievers until the child's parent is consulted.

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**BLEEDING AFTER LOSING A BABY TOOTH**

- Place a clean folded gauze pad, cloth or paper towel over the bleeding area.
- Have the child bite on the gauze with pressure for 15 minutes. This procedure may be repeated.
- Make sure the child refrains from frequent rinsing.
- If bleeding persists, SEE A DENTIST!

**BROKEN BRACES AND WIRES**

- Broken wires can be covered with wax or gauze until the child can be seen by an orthodontist.
- DO NOT remove wire embedded in the cheek, tongue or gums.
- THE CHILD SHOULD SEE THEIR ORTHODONTIST IMMEDIATELY!

**BROKEN TOOTH**

- Gently clean dirt from the injured area with warm water.
- Place a cold compress on the face over the injured area.
- Locate and save any broken tooth fragments if possible.
- SEE A DENTIST IMMEDIATELY!

**CUT OR BITTEN TONGUE, LIP OR CHEEK**

- Clean area with a clean, wet cloth.
- Apply pressure with cloth to stop the bleeding.
- Apply ice to the swollen or bruised areas. If bleeding does not stop after 15 minutes, or with pressure, the child should be seen by a dentist or doctor.

**KNOCKED OUT PERMANENT TOOTH**

- Find the tooth.
- Handle the tooth by its crown, not the root!
- Gently replace the tooth in its socket and hold the tooth in place.
- A tooth that is quickly reimplanted has a good chance of being saved!
- If the tooth cannot be reinserted into the socket, put the tooth into “Sav-A-Tooth”, or a cup of fresh milk. Do not put the tooth into tap water.
- SEE A DENTIST IMMEDIATELY!

**POSSIBLE BROKEN JAW**

- The child’s jaw line may appear distorted.
- Immediately call your local emergency medical service (911)!
- Keep the child still and calm.
- Make sure the child can breathe.
- Try to keep the child from moving.

**TOOTHACHE OR ABSCESS**

- Rinse the mouth vigorously with warm salt water to remove any food debris.
- DO NOT place aspirin on the site of the toothache because it may cause burning to the gum tissue. If the face is swollen, place a cold compress on the outside of the cheek.
- Encourage the parent to take the child to the dentist AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.