



Patient Management Techniques

Please carefully read and ask about anything on this form. We will be happy to explain it further.

It is our intent that our dental care delivery be the best possible quality, however providing high quality dental care to children can be difficult due to their behavior. Every effort will be made to obtain your child’s cooperation through warmth, charm, humor, and understanding. When these fail, there are several behavioral management techniques used to eliminate or minimize disruptive behavior. These are routinely used and accepted by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry as described below.

1. **Tell-show-do:** The dentist or assistant explains to the child what is to be done by demonstrating on a model or on the child’s finger. Then the procedure is done on the patient’s tooth. Praise is used to reinforce cooperative behavior.
2. **Positive reinforcement:** This technique rewards the child who displays desirable behavior. Rewards include compliments, praise, a pat on the arm or a prize.
3. **Voice control:** The attention of a disruptive child is gained by changing the tone or increasing the volume of the practitioner’s voice.
4. **Mouth props:** A rubber device is gently placed in the child’s mouth to prevent either intentional or unintentional closure on the dentist’s fingers or drill.
5. **Physical restraint by dentist/assistant:** The child is held so they cannot grab a moving drill or other sharp object. They are not able to grab the practitioner’s hand while delicate work is being performed. This is for the safety of the child and to facilitate treatment.
6. **Laughing gas:** Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) is administered to calm and soothe the patient prior to a stressful procedure. Nitrous oxide is a very safe medication that very rarely does cause nausea. The patient is always awake and never loses consciousness.

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The listed behavior management techniques have been explained to me. I understand their use and the risks, benefits, and alternatives available. I have had all my questions answered and I realize I can always seek further information or revoke permission for any of these techniques.

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)