



## Parent in the Back Guidelines

Dear Parents:

We welcome parents in to our back treatment area. It is very helpful particularly on a 6 month checkup or a New Patient cleaning and exam for the Doctor to be able to go over any cavities that are found and suggest preventative methods to the parents that are accompanying their child.

Although we sense that some children do better without parents present especially for dental work, we suggest the following guidelines to improve chances of a positive outcome if a parent is joining the child for dental work:

1. **Please do not bring other siblings to the appointment.**
  - a. They can be disruptive without meaning to be to the other child's care or to other children that are there for their own visit. When one child in the office is crying, everyone cries.
  - b. We don't want siblings watching something that might scare them for any future appointments for themselves. We are very good at hiding anything that appears scary.
2. **Do not over-prepare your child for their appointment.**
  - a. Allow us to state the procedure in our simple terms that are non-threatening to the child.
  - b. Please, Please, Please do not tell your child that they are going to "get a shot" or that what we are doing is "going to hurt". We are very good at making a child comfortable for dental work and parents can make our job harder than it has to be by using scary words.
  - c. Be supportive of our practice's terminology. "Bippo Lingo" is a set of words that we use to describe dental cleanings and dental work to a child. We have sheets that give our terminology for you to understand.
3. **We ask that you sit away from your child during the appointment.**
  - a. Please do not sit in the dental chair with your child. Please do not hover over your child.
  - b. We would like to maintain communication with your child.
  - c. We like your child to learn how to enjoy going to the dentist. A parent that hovers makes the child think something bad is about to happen.
  - d. If you act like going to the dentist is no big deal, then they will catch on to that and feel more comfortable.
4. **If your child will not allow the dentist to work with them, we may ask that you separate from your child to give us the best opportunity to communicate with them.**
  - a. Most children listen to a doctor better than their own parent.
  - b. There will be an initial outburst when the parent walks away, but with time and comfort from the doctor and staff, most children calm down and do great.
  - c. If you are not comfortable with separating from your child, the dentist will ask how you would like to proceed to achieve what is needed for the child.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_