

Al Pelphrey, D.M.D., FAAPD

Pediatric Dentistry

Specializing in Infants, Children, Teenagers & Handicapped
Board Certified by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

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Dear Parents;

We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to apply our care, skill and judgment to your child's dental needs. Recognizing that our office represents a new experience to your child, we welcome any questions that you or your child may have concerning their first visit to our office. Please don't hesitate to call our office with any concerns prior to your child's first dental visit with us.

Prior to the first dental visit, please discuss the positive aspects of coming to the dentist with your child at home so that your child will understand why he/she is coming to see us. Please don't say "the dentist will not hurt you", instead tell them that "Dr. Al will be very easy and gentle while he looks at your teeth and counts them", please do not relay to them any bad experiences you may have had at the dentist. Little minds have BIG imaginations and what you may share with them could make them more apprehensive about their first visit. Expect your child to react well and enjoy their first visit to our office and chances are they will do just that!

On the first visit to our office our staff will review your child's health history with you to determine if there are any precautions we need to take in caring for your child's dental needs. If you are aware of any significant medical problems, inform us ahead of time so we have the chance to talk to your child's pediatrician before their first visit. We invite you to stay with your child during the initial exam. Following the exam, we will discuss our findings and recommendations with you. We will provide you with an estimate of the cost of future treatment. Due to Federal Privacy laws (HIPAA) and Informed Consent requirements, a parent MUST accompany the child during the first visit. At that time you may choose to designate other family members with whom we can discuss your child's dental care.

In the event your child requires dental treatment, we will ask that you remain in the reception area while we are performing delicate dental procedures on your child (fillings, crowns, extractions). We have found that we can establish a direct and close rapport with your child more quickly when we can work with your child one on one. Our purpose is to gain your child's confidence and trust and overcome any apprehension they may have. Another reason we request that parents remain in the reception room during delicate procedures is to prevent any distraction during the procedure. This allows us to provide the safest environment possible for your child. We understand that every child reacts differently to the dental environment; therefore there may be times when your presence during treatment will be requested. We make those decisions on a case by case basis.

Please do not be upset if your child cries during an appointment. Children are often afraid of anything new and strange, and crying is sometimes a normal reaction to that situation. We will use our skills to make your child feel very safe, secure and happy while they are with us.

If your child has had dental x-rays taken recently by another dentist, please request that those x-rays be forwarded to our office before your child's appointment. We will need current diagnostic x-rays to determine your child's present dental condition. It is also requested that all previous dental records be transferred to our office from your previous dentist.

If at any time you have questions concerning the office policies, your child's diagnosis, recommended treatment, etc., please feel free to contact our office. We sincerely trust that you and your child will find the first and future visits to our office comfortable and rewarding. Also we welcome any comments or suggestions (good or bad), to help us improve our service to you and your child. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Al Pelphrey and Staff



"Gently Caring For Your Child's Smile"