Your child’s dental care is very important to us. Please help us make their visit a positive experience. The following information will help make for a happier and pleasant appointment:

1. **Treatment must start on schedule.** A late arrival may necessitate rescheduling the appointment.

2. If you cannot make your appointment, please call us and cancel at least the day before the appointment. With the tremendous need for our services, this will enable us to place another patient in your appointment time. If you miss three appointments without prior cancellation, you may be dismissed from our practice and asked to seek care elsewhere.

3. Please don’t spend a lot of time preparing your child for the dental visit. Treat their visit as an every day occurrence, like going to the store. Teasing or telling scary stories about dental visits must be avoided. Once in the treatment room, the treatment team will explain the procedure in order to put your child at ease.

4. Having a parent in the dental treatment room is not always in the best interest of the child, parent, or dental personnel. If the parent is present, there is no “transfer of authority and trust” to the dental treatment team; communication and management are usually more difficult. Often, parents are not able to understand and deal with the emotional aspects or procedures that take place during treatment (administration of anesthesia, tooth extraction, bleeding, suturing of lacerations, etc.) and react inappropriately (say the wrong things to the child, ask questions that upset the child, show the child that they are scared, become emotional themselves, etc.), thereby making the treatment more difficult for everyone involved. Often the parent delays and interferes with the treatment team’s ability to get needed items from drawers, carts, cabinets, etc. For the reasons stated, parents MAY NOT BE PERMITTED to remain in the room while dental treatment takes place.

5. Before entering the treatment room, children should be encouraged to go to the bathroom. This will avoid wasted time and potential “accidents” in the dental chair.

6. Upon completion of treatment, a member of the treatment team will explain what was done and answer any questions.

7. After the visit, your child must be watched closely to protect him/her from self-injury. Pay particular attention to lip and cheek chewing due to numbness from the local anesthetic.

8. If any pain develops as a result of the dental procedures, give the appropriate dose of Children’s Tylenol or Tylenol.

9. If any extractions (removal of teeth) were done, do not allow your child to rinse, drink from a straw, pick on the area with a fingernail, or eat hard foods. If you note any bleeding, have him/her bite firmly on a tightly folded gauze pad or tissue for fifteen to thirty minutes.

If any problems arise or if you have any questions, please call the dental clinic at 475-0783.