SANTA BARBARA CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY

DENTAL EMERGENCY

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

If your child faces a dental emergency, please call us immediately at **(805) 421-4469.** We are here for you! If you need urgent treatment after hours, you can call our emergency number listed on our answering machine or visit your local hospital. Below are tips on dealing with urgent dental situations.

WHAT TO DO IF...

A BABY TOOTH IS KNOCKED OUT



Contact our office as soon as possible. QUICK ACTION can lessen a child's discomfort and prevent infection.



Rinse the mouth GENTLY with water and apply cold compresses to reduce swelling.



Spend time comforting the child, rather than looking for the tooth. Baby teeth should not be replaced because of potential damage to developing permanent teeth.

A TOOTH IS CHIPPED OR BROKEN



Contact our office immediately. Fast action can save the tooth, prevent infection, and reduce the need for extensive dental treatment.



Rinse the mouth with water and apply cold compresses to reduce swelling.



Bring the broken tooth fragment to the dentist if possible.

A TOOTHACHE



If your child complains of a toothache, inspect the teeth in the area they indicate hurts to ensure nothing is caught between them.



If pain continues, it is best to call our office right away so that a dentist can examine your child's teeth, especially if swelling or fever is associated with the pain.



Facial swelling associated with a dental lesion can be potentially life-threatening and must be managed immediately.



Over-the-counter Tylenol or Motrin may be taken orally at the instructed children's dose for dental pain alone without associated swelling or fever.

A PERMANENT TOOTH IS KNOCKED OUT

Find the tooth. Rinse it GENTLY in cool water or place in the patient's own saliva. DO NOT scrub it or use soap. You must be very gentle as too much force can disrupt the ligmanet fibers that are necessary for reimplantation.



REPLACE THE TOOTH in the socket and hold it there with clean gauze or a wash cloth. If you cannot do this, place the tooth in a clean container with the patient's saliva. DO NOT PUT IT IN WATER.



Call your pediatric dentist immediately, and bring the child and the tooth to the office.

AN ACTIVITY INVOLVES RISK OF FALLS OR COLLISIONS



Wear a Mouth Guard when activity involves a risk of falls, collisions, or contact with hard surfaces or equipment.



Pre-formed mouth guards can be purchased in sporting goods stores, or CUSTOMIZED MOUTH GUARDS can be made at our neighboring office, Ferris Orthodontic Group, which ensures a more precise fit and better protection.

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