

Pediatric Patient Policies

It is our experience that children do much better with dental treatment without the presence of a parent. For hygiene appointments and new patient exams, parents are advised to encourage independence in their children by staying in the reception area.

For any dental treatment, parents are required to stay out of the treatment room. If proximity is necessary, once the child is seated in the treatment room, parents are welcome to sit in the hallway outside the treatment room.

For us to do our job efficiently, we need cooperation by both the parent and the child. It is expected that a child will cry somewhat when anesthetic is administered. For children under 8 years old, if resistance is met, nitrous oxide will be administered. For parents not comfortable with this policy, we can refer you to a pediatric dentist in the area.

Patient's Name _____

Parents Signature _____ Date _____

For Your Information – Nitrous Oxide

Nitrous Oxide, commonly called “laughing gas,” is a breathable colorless gas with a slightly sweet taste and odor. You inhale nitrous oxide, which is mixed with oxygen, through a soft nosepiece or mask, which is attached by hoses to the nitrous oxide and oxygen tanks. Dentists typically use a mixture that is 25- to 40 percent nitrous oxide. The gas starts to work in three to five minutes.

You remain awake and aware while you are breathing nitrous oxide. You will be able to respond to your dentist's requests and answer questions, but your speech may be slightly slurred and your responses may be slower than usual. In general, you will be relaxed and cooperative and probably will not feel any injections. Your breathing and heartbeat will still be normal and you can move normally.

Nitrous oxide is very safe. Fifteen percent of people who receive nitrous oxide experience side effects, including headache, nausea, vomiting, sweating and shivering. If you experience side effects during the treatment, the dentist will turn off the nitrous oxide and allow you to breathe pure oxygen for up to five minutes. The effects of the nitrous oxide wear off as the oxygen flushes the gas from your lungs. You won't feel any after effects once nitrous oxide completely leaves your system. Nitrous oxide is safe for use in children.