



dentistry
for
children^{pc}

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CARE OF YOUR CHILD FOLLOWING DENTAL TRAUMA

1. ORAL HYGIENE:

It is important to maintain excellent oral hygiene. Clean the traumatized area by brushing gently today and, thereafter, by regular brushing. Brush in all areas of the mouth.

2. PAIN:

A certain amount of discomfort is expected. If necessary, non-aspirin containing medications (Advil™, Tylenol™) should be taken. Stronger pain medication is almost never needed.

3. DIET:

A soft diet for a week is recommended to give the tooth/teeth a chance to heal.

4. PROGNOSIS:

Trauma to a tooth may eventually lead to pulpal necrosis (death of nerve). This is more likely in serious injuries, and can occur at any time following trauma. The signs of such an event are:

- a. Pain - either spontaneous or upon eating
- b. Redness and swelling or "pimple" above the affected tooth
- c. Swelling of lip or cheek.

If any of these signs occur, you should call our office.

Discoloration (graying) of tooth beginning 2-4 weeks following trauma is often a sign of pulp (nerve) damage but does not necessarily indicate that the nerve is dead. If discoloration occurs without any of the other signs above, the tooth may recover. In such cases, a period of watchful waiting is indicated until your child's next checkup.