

Child Policy

Effective November 2017

When your child has an appointment, we understand that you may wish to accompany them in the room but we have given this matter serious consideration and have come to the following conclusions about parents accompanying their children in the back:

- The doctor/hygienist/assistant needs to move around the chair freely and having an extra person in the back can make this difficult and dangerous.
- The child divides his/her attention between the parent and the doctor and/or the doctor/hygienist divides his/her attention between the parent and the child.
This can cause appointment times to lengthen and result in having the next patient brought in late.
- Parents tend to repeat or offer commands to the child which takes away from the authority of the doctor/hygienist.
- Parents request to be involved due to their own anxiety over the dental appointment. Children pick up on this which may also increase the fear response in the child.
- In our experience, when children sit through their visits on their own, there is an increase in communication and behavioral management is easier. You may be surprised by how well your child responds!

With these facts in mind, we can no longer have unaccompanied children in the back (while the caregiver is having an appointment), nor parents in the back while their child has an appointment*. Unaccompanied children may remain in the waiting room if they are over the age of five, unless they cause a disruption which will cause us to have to reschedule the caregivers' appointment.

If you think your child may be anxious at their appointment, try these tips!

- Be aware of the language you use when telling your child about the visit. Instead of telling your child "Don't worry, it won't be scary!" try instead to say "We're going to the dentist! It's going to be fun!"
- Don't mention pain, injections, or anxiety. We take our jobs very seriously and have many tricks up our sleeves to help them feel at ease in the chair.
- Bring your child in during a time they are most cheerful and calm.

Let's work together to be sure your child has the best experience possible!

Children aged 3 and younger may have **one guardian accompany them during their visit. Children with special needs or circumstances may also be accompanied provided the staff is given appropriate notice.*