



werb dentistry
Specializing in Children & Adolescents

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BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

It is our intent that all professional care delivered in our dental clinic shall be of the best possible quality we can provide for each child. Providing a high quality of care can sometimes be made very difficult or even impossible because of the lack of cooperation of some patients.

There are several behavior management techniques that are used by pediatric dentists to gain the cooperation of the child in order to eliminate disruptive behavior or to prevent patients from causing injury to themselves due to uncontrollable movements.

The following are the management techniques most frequently used:

TELL SHOW DO	The dentist or assistant explains to the child what is to be done then demonstrates with instruments, and then the procedure is performed in the child's mouth.
POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT	Desirable behavior is constantly rewarded by compliments, praise, a pat on the back, a hug or a prize. Undesirable behavior is not rewarded and ignored.
VOICE CONTROL	The attention of a disruptive child is gained by changing the tone by sharply increasing the loudness of the dentist's voice. The content of the conversation is less important than the nature of the command.
NITROUS OXIDE ("LAUGHING GAS")	The gas is administered to the child by way of nose mask. The mask usually remains in place throughout the dental appointment so that the child can remain relaxed. Laughing gas may cause nausea, headaches, or light-headedness. The child will not be discharged unless all untoward effects have been resolved.
SEDATION	Sometimes a combination of drugs may be used to relax the child who does not respond to other behavior management techniques or who is unable to comprehend the dental procedures. These drugs are usually administered orally or by injection in the mouth and may require an extended dental appointment.
ISOLATION	We kindly ask parents to remain in the waiting area while one of our staff escorts your child into the operatory. This is an important step in gaining your child's trust, as well as building rapport to aid in behavior management. As part of our positive reinforcement, we will use your presence as a reward towards the end of the treatment.
PHYSICAL RESTRAINT	The assistant and/or dentist restrain the child from making movements, which may otherwise cause harm to the child. This may include holding the child's hands, legs, or stabilizing the head. Often, parents may be asked to assist in restraining the child as he/she may feel more secure around mom or dad.
PAPOOSE BOARD	This is a restraining device resembling a surfboard with wraps that limit the child's movements. This enables the dental staff to perform the procedures while preventing injury to the child.

The above techniques are used to the discretion of the dentist in accordance with the behavior of your child to ensure the best and safest treatment and dental experience for your child. If you object to any of the above, please inform the dentist *prior* to the beginning of any treatment.

I the of
(Your name) (relationship to child, eg. father/mother) (patient name)

have read and fully understand the above. I do not have any objections to their use on the child named.
I consent to the use of any of the listed techniques on the child named.

Parent/guardian signature

Date