Preoperative Instructions for Sedation

1. Be honest with your child if they ask you questions about the dental appointment. If you do not know the answers to their questions, simply say, “I do not know”….”we will ask the dentist.”

   Do not say anything that will scare your child such as the “dentist is going to give you a shot.” You may have good intentions of preparing your child, but the effect may backfire! It is best to let us talk with the child during the visit. We will tell them everything that will occur, but use language best suited for your child’s age and understanding. For instance, we refer to the shot as a “mosquito bite.”

2. Arrive at our office at the time you were told. The actual sedation and treatment of your child may be 30 to 60 minutes after you arrive depending on the drugs that are used to sedate your child.

3. We recommend that you bring another adult with you to the sedation appointment. We feel it is very important for you to take care of your child when he/she is in the child’s car seat and the other adult can concentrate on safely driving you home.

4. Please feel free to let your child bring a favorite blanket or stuffed animal to the appointment if he or she is strongly attached to it.

5. Dress your child in comfortable clothing, preferably a T-shirt or sweatshirt and pants. We will be attaching monitors, such as a blood pressure cuff, to his or her arms. Loosely fitting clothing is preferable for that reason.

6. If your child develops a cold, fever, congestion or the flu for a week or within 24 hours of the scheduled appointment, please call the office. We will make a decision after talking to you whether to postpone and reschedule the appointment or refer you to your child’s physician.

7. If your child’s health changes, such as being diagnosed with a condition, problem, or disease within a week of the sedation appointment, please call the office. Also call us immediately if your child has had an injury to his/her head causing loss of consciousness, vomiting, or dizziness.

8. Please let us know on the day of sedation if your child has taken any over-the-counter medications within the last 24 hours. This is very important to us and to your child’s safety.

9. Make sure your child uses the bathroom before the sedation appointment.

10. **MOST IMPORTANT!!!** Do not give your child any food for at least 8 hours before the scheduled appointment unless advised otherwise. This is extremely important and the child will not be treated if he/she has had any food before the sedation appointment. If the child does vomit during the treatment and has eaten food, we will be unable to complete treatment scheduled for that day and your child may have to be hospitalized for some time.

11. Clear liquids such as water, apple juice, gelatin, popsicles, and tea may be given up to 3 hours before the appointment.
12. We may use different sedative agents to sedate your child than we had planned, but if you recall, we think the following are the best for your child:

- chloral hydrate
- meperidine (Demerol)
- hydroxyzine (Vistaril)
- diazepam (Valium)
- midazolam (Versed)
- Other ________________________

13. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to call us at the office. We are here to help you and your child. Thank you.

14. Our emergency numbers are: 201-313-5437