

# Pediatric Sedation

## If sedation is needed

Many children do just fine at the dentist. Sometimes, however, especially for very young or anxious children or those who require a lot of dental work, some level of sedation is necessary for safe and comfortable treatment.

It is important to know that we have three options for levels of sedation from light sedation to general anesthesia.

- ❖ A lightly sedated child is awake, relaxed, and interacts easily with the staff.
- ❖ In the middle level, often called conscious sedation, the child feels sleepy and relaxed, can breathe and move on his or her own, is responsive to requests and touch, and often has no memory of the treatment.
- ❖ In the deepest sedation level, that is often performed under general anesthesia in a hospital, the child is unconscious, sometimes requires assistance to breathe, and is completely free of pain or memory of the event.



Checking blood oxygen level



Child is fully recovered



Monitoring comfort and safety

The level of sedation and the type of drug we choose depends on your child's age and maturity, required dental treatments, health and medical history, weight, and anxiety level.

Many drugs are given orally as pills or liquids; others are sprayed or inhaled through the nose or injected into a muscle or vein.

## Pre-treatment instructions

Before treatment, we give you instructions about when food and liquids need to be stopped. Depending on the situation, we may also have other pre-treatment instructions.

## Safety precautions

During treatment, we constantly monitor your child's comfort and safety. We confirm that your child is breathing freely, and depending on the level of sedation, we may also check the blood oxygen level, pulse, and heart function.

In some cases, to prevent accidents, we may wrap your child in a special blanket to limit arm and leg movements.

We also ask you to stay at our office throughout the treatment.

After treatment, we make sure your child is fully recovered and awake, and if appropriate, can walk, talk and sit without help.

When your child is ready, we send you home with instructions for successful post-treatment and care.