

DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR SPECIAL CHILD

Do special children have special dental needs?

Most do. Dr. Elliott and Dr. Molina have found that some special children are very susceptible to tooth decay, gum disease or oral trauma. Others require medication or diets detrimental to dental health. Still other children have physical difficulty with effective dental habits at home. The good news is, ***dental disease is preventable!*** If dental care is started early and followed conscientiously, every child can enjoy a healthy smile.



How can I prevent dental problems for my special child?

A first dental visit by the *first birthday* will start your child on a lifetime of good dental health. Dr. Elliott or Dr. Molina will take a full medical history, gently examine your child's teeth and gums, and then plan preventive care designed for your child's needs.

Will preventive dentistry benefit my child?

YES! Your child will benefit from the preventive approach recommended for all children - effective brushing and flossing, moderate snacking and adequate fluoride. Home care takes just minutes a day and prevents needless dental problems. Regular professional cleanings and fluoride treatments by Dr. Elliott or Dr. Molina are also *very beneficial*. Sealants can prevent tooth decay on the chewing surfaces of molars where four out of five cavities in children occur.

Is Dr. Elliott and Dr. Molina prepared to care for special children?

Absolutely! Dr. Elliott and Dr. Molina have had 3 years of advanced training beyond dental school. Their education as a specialist focuses on care for children with special needs. In addition, our office is designed to be physically accessible for special patients. Pediatric dentists, because of their expertise, are often the *clinicians of choice* for the dental care of adults with special needs as well.



Will my child need special care during dental treatment?

Some children need more support than a gentle, caring manner to feel comfortable during dental treatment. Restraint or mild sedation may benefit your special child. If a child needs extensive treatment, Dr. Elliott or Dr. Molina may suggest providing care at a local hospital. They both have comprehensive education in behavior management, sedation and anesthesia techniques. They will select a technique based on the specific health needs of your child, then discuss the benefits, limits and risks of that technique with you.

Member, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

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