



MELBA Z. MAYES, D.D.S., M.S.

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

2140 GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 200 • CHINO HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91709

(909) 548-4044 • (909) 548-0848 FACSIMILE

American Academy of
Pediatric Dentistry

California Society of
Pediatric Dentistry

American Dental
Association

California Dental
Association

Tri-County Dental
Society

DENTAL EMERGENCIES

While all parents try to protect our children from dental injuries, accidents are a part of life. One of the most important things we can do is be prepared before an accident occurs.

Tooth Ache

Clean the area around the sore tooth thoroughly. Rinse the mouth vigorously with warm saltwater to dislodge trapped food or debris. If the face is swollen, apply a cold compress. Take acetaminophen for pain and call your dentist.

Broken Tooth

Rinse dirt from injured area with warm water. Place a cold compress over the face in the area of the injury. Locate and save any broken tooth fragments. See the dentist immediately.

Broken Braces and Wires

If a broken appliance can be removed easily, take it out. If it cannot, cover the sharp or protruding portion with cotton balls, gauze or chewing gum. If a wire is stuck in the gums, cheek or tongue, DO NOT remove it. See the dentist immediately.

Cut or Bitten Tongue, Lip or Cheek

Apply ice to bruised areas. If there is bleeding, apply firm but gentle pressure with a clean gauze or cloth. If bleeding does not stop after 15 minutes or it cannot be controlled by simple pressure, take the child to a hospital emergency room.

Knocked Out Permanent Tooth

Find the tooth. Handle the tooth by the top (crown), not the root portion. You may rinse the tooth but DO NOT clean or handle the tooth unnecessarily. Try to reinsert the tooth in its socket. Have the child hold the tooth in place by biting on a clean gauze or cloth. If you cannot reinsert the tooth, transport the tooth in a cup containing milk or water. See the dentist IMMEDIATELY! Time is a critical factor in saving the tooth.

Bleeding After Baby Tooth Falls Out

Fold and pack a clean gauze or cloth over the bleeding area. Have the child bite on the gauze for 15 minutes. This may be repeated once; if bleeding persists, see the dentist.

Possible Broken Jaw

If a fractured jaw is suspected, try to keep the jaws from moving by using a towel or handkerchief. Take the child to the nearest hospital emergency room.

This article first appeared in the March 2005 Issue of West Coast Magazine.