# Helping Hands

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# CARE OF YOUR CHILD AFTER DENTAL SURGERY

Today your child has had dental treatment under general anesthesia. It is very important that you follow these instructions carefully.

# What to Expect:

- Bleeding from the mouth if teeth have been removed.
- Feeling sick to their stomach. Vomiting may occur up to 4 hours after surgery.
- Pain in the mouth, jaw, or neck.
- Slight rise in temperature for 24 hours (99-100°F).
- Sore throat or bloody nose.
- If crowns have been placed, the gums may bleed for up to 7-10 days as they heal.

## **Activity and Care**

- Rest and quiet activities are important after surgery. Your child's balance may be poor due to the medications given. Closely supervise any activity for the remainder of the day.
- If your child had teeth removed, avoid the use of a straw for 48 hours. You may want to place a towel or old pillowcase over their pillow because of minor bleeding.
- You may brush your child's teeth this evening. Good oral hygiene is essential for healing of the gum tissues. Minor bleeding is normal with brushing during the healing period.

## Diet

Begin your child's diet with clear liquids such as apple juice, water, koolaide, Jell-O or Gatorade. You may increase their diet slowly to include milk and soft foods (soup, crackers, pudding), when tolerated. When your child is doing well on a light diet, then return to his/her normal diet.

### **Medications**

An acetaminophen product (Tylenol, etc.) may be given every four to six hours to help relieve pain and elevated temperature. Do not give more than 5 doses of acetaminophen in any 24 hour period.

### Seek Advice:

- 1. If vomiting persists beyond four (4) hours.
- 2. If the temperature remains elevated beyond 14 hours above 101°F.
- 3. If there is difficulty breathing.
- 4. If any other matter causes you concern.

Our office has a 24 hour answering service which can be reached at (970) 493-2254.