

## Kids & Teens Dentistry



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### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN BEING TREATED WITH NITROUS OXIDE

Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) also known as “Laughing Gas” is used to help some children who are unable to accept dental treatment in the usual manner due to their young age, fear, or large amount of treatment that is required. N<sub>2</sub>O is NOT a general anesthetic and your child will NOT be asleep as for an operation in the hospital. There are risks associated with any type of sedation, with N<sub>2</sub>O it is most commonly nausea and vomiting.

We have decided to treat your child utilizing N<sub>2</sub>O in our dental office. Following are some important steps to follow for the successful completion of this treatment.

1. It is essential **that your child have no food (including milk) or drink for at least 6 hours before his/her dental appointment.** Clear liquids (i.e. water or diluted apple juice) are permissible up to 3 hours prior to the appointment but your child should be given as little as possible. Violating this rule can endanger your child’s health and thus your appointment will have to be rescheduled if your child has eaten prior to sedation.
2. Do not give your child any medicine that day without first discussing it with us. Certain medicines including over the counter medications (Cough syrup, benadryl, etc) can enhance the sedative effect of the nitrous oxide and could be potentially dangerous.
3. Follow post-operative instructions closely. Please call the office if any problems or questions arise.
4. Please inform the office **if within 5 days** prior to the appointment your child becomes ill or develops a fever. This may necessitate rescheduling the appointment for your child’s health and safety.
5. It is impossible to predict whether the sedation with N<sub>2</sub>O will be sufficient to allow the dental treatment to be carried out on your child. If the N<sub>2</sub>O does not provide adequate sedation then the alternatives are as follows:
  - 1) Delay the treatment until your child is able to cooperate.
  - 2) Attempt treatment with N<sub>2</sub>O and oral sedation.
  - 3) Have your child seen in the hospital under general anesthesia