

Common Dental Issues for Kids with Special Needs

Physical Behavior/ Concern	Management/ Strategies
Grinding of Teeth (Bruxism)	Mouth Guard and/ or Helmet
Picking Teeth/ Gums	Soft Gloves. Keep hands clean and nails trimmed
Mouth Breathing	Frequent rinsing with water to reduce dry mouth. Lip balm
Storing Food in Mouth (Pouching)	Inspection of mouth after meals/snacks
Eating non Food-Items (Pica)	Mouth guard. Inspection of the mouth
Acid Reflux/ Vomitting Food to Rechew	Rinse mouth frequently. Place in an upright position. Frequent brushing, flossing, and dental visits



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<http://www.cavityfreesf.org/taskforces-bayview-hunters-point/>

Oral Health, Dental Care And Special Needs



CavityFree SF District 10 (Hunter's Point/Bayview)

Tips to a Successful Dental Visit!

Communicate Your Needs Ahead of Time: Share with the team any allergies, medications, special needs, anxieties or limitations. *This helps us better prepare for a positive experience!*

Prep Your Child for What to Expect: Often we use a “show, tell, do” method of modeling expectations. We also use story cards. It is not at all uncommon for a child to previsit the office to get comfortable with the surroundings.

The Exam: Check in with the front desk and feel free to remind them of any special accommodations in place. Sometimes soothing/preffered items are brought along to comfort children in times of stress. A calm and reassuring voice puts children at ease!



A Community of Inclusion

As medical professionals it is our job to help all people live healthier, more enjoyable, and confident lives as a result of their own commitment to oral health. But how do we do this for people who don't fit into the “norm” for dental care and education?

Simply put the answer is **Inclusion**. *What does that mean?* That means we take each patient at their stage of development and abilities/limitations and using the collective knowledge of parents, patients, and practitioners **we find a way to provide access to dental care to all children!**



Oral Health and Dental Care Are for ALL

Parenting on its own is no easy thing, knowing what is “right” and what is best, and worrying for the care of your loved ones. When children have special needs, accommodations or difficulties this can be especially difficult.

Not knowing where to go or who to see about special circumstances or accommodations your child may need in order to have successful dental treatment may seem like too much to ask of a dentist you do not know.

THEY ARE NOT

Access to healthcare is of vital importance to all people and a right for **ALL** children! As medical professionals your dental team takes an oath to help improve the lives of **ALL** people regardless of limitations, disabilities, or special needs.

We do this by working with families using a variety of mediums before, during, and after the visit to enjoy a successful and enjoyable dental outing!