

Broken teeth, loose appliances, cuts in the mouth and more — little mouths are known to get into dental accidents. Here are some tips on what to do in case your child experiences a dental emergency. The most important thing to do is to remain calm and call your pediatric dentist right away!

Bleeding After Baby Tooth Falls Out

Fold and pack a clean gauze or cloth over the bleeding area. Have your child bite on the gauze with pressure for 15 minutes. Repeat once. If bleeding persists, take your child to see the pediatric dentist.

Broken Braces & Wires

Take out any broken appliances that can be removed easily. You can also cover sharp or protruding portions with dental wax, cotton balls, gauze or chewing gum. If a wire is stuck in the gums, cheek or tongue, do NOT remove it. Take your child to the pediatric dentist immediately if the loose or broken appliances are bothering you.

Broken Tooth

Place cold compresses over the face where the injury is present. Locate and save any broken tooth fragments. Take your child to see the pediatric dentist IMMEDIATELY!

Cut or Bitten Tongue, Lip or Cheek

Apply ice to bruised areas. Apply firm but gentle pressure with a clean gauze or cloth if bleeding occurs. If the bleeding has not stopped after 15 minutes or if you cannot control the bleeding by applying pressure, take your child to a hospital emergency room.

Cold/Canker Sores

Take over-the-counter medicine for "cold" or "canker" sores as directed for relief. If sores persist more than occasionally, see the pediatric dentist for evaluation.

Knocked-Out Permanent Tooth

Your child will need to see the pediatric dentist immediately — time is of the essence. But first, find the missing tooth. Handle the tooth by the top (crown), not the root portion. Gently rinsing the tooth is okay, but do NOT clean the tooth more than necessary. If possible, try to reinsert the tooth in its socket. Your child should first hold the tooth in place by biting on a clean gauze or cloth. If reinsertion is not an option, place the tooth in a cup of milk and see the pediatric dentist IMMEDIATELY to save the tooth.

Loose Tooth

If your child has a very loose tooth and it won't come out from "wiggling" alone, front teeth often come out easily with simple rotation, whereas back teeth come out more easily with a side-to-side motion.

Lost Filling or Crown

Take your child to see the pediatric dentist IMMEDIATELY!

Possible Broken Jaw

If you suspect a fractured jaw, try to keep the jaw from moving by using a towel, tie or handkerchief, then take your child to the nearest hospital emergency room.

Swelling or Abscess in or Around the Mouth

This typically indicates an infection. Take your child to see the pediatric dentist as soon as possible. If swelling is severe, take your child to the nearest hospital emergency room.

Toothache

Clean the area around the sore tooth as thoroughly as possible. Rinse with warm salt water or use dental floss to dislodge trapped food or debris. Do NOT place aspirin on the gum or on the aching tooth. You can apply a cold compress to any swollen areas on the face. Take children's ibuprofen for pain and call the pediatric dentist!

White Lesions on Teeth

White lesions lasting more than a couple weeks should be evaluated by the pediatric dentist.

Mouthguards

Accidents can happen while your child plays sports — including a hurt jaw or even broken teeth. Wearing a professionally-made mouthguard can reduce your child's risk of oral injury.

