



Paediatric Dental Service

Information for Parents and Carers of children referred to our service

Who are we?

Our team provide dental care and treatment for children with a range of needs which make it difficult for this treatment to be provided in General Dental Practice.

Children can be referred to us for a number of reasons:

- Needing a large amount of treatment or a complex type of treatment
- Anxiety or fear of the dentist
- Medical conditions which affect dental treatment
- Additional support needs

Our team

Our clinical team is made up of dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, dental nurses and includes Childsmile dental nurses and dental health support workers. As a team we have experience in helping children who may find dental treatment difficult to cope with.

We work closely with other health and social care professionals who may be asked to help support your child with their dental care.

Coming to the clinic

If your child has particular needs which will make it difficult for them to come along to our clinics, we will be happy to discuss your individual situation in advance of the appointment and work with you to help prepare your child for the visit to make it as stress free as possible.

We strongly believe that prevention is better than cure. In addition to providing treatment for existing problems, we will provide information and advice to help take care of your child's teeth. Our treatment plans will also include steps to help reduce the risk of future dental problems, and in some cases this may be all that is needed.

Which clinic?

Your appointment letter will have the address and telephone number of the clinic or hospital where your child is being seen

Planning treatment

When we meet your child for the first time a full assessment will be carried out to plan what treatment they need and the best way to provide treatment for them.

We have a range of options available for helping children cope with dental treatment and will work with you to decide which approach is needed for your child:

Acclimatisation – We will spend time explaining things to your child and working with them at their own pace to help them accept the treatment they need

Inhalation Sedation – This involves breathing nitrous oxide (laughing gas) through a nose piece while treatment is happening. This does not put the child to sleep but can help children to relax, making it easier for them to have their treatment

Intravenous / Oral Sedation - For some older children the dentist may suggest giving a sedative medication either as a drink (oral sedation) or through a small tube or cannula placed in a vein on the back of their hand / arm.

General Anaesthetic – Where children would be unable to cope with treatment using any of the above methods, it may be necessary for them to go to sleep to have the treatment they need. If this is the case the dentist will discuss this fully with you. General Anaesthetics are always provided within a hospital – and most take place in the Sick Children’s Hospital in Edinburgh, though children living in West Lothian may be offered treatment at St John’s Hospital in Livingston.

After treatment

Your child will be discharged back to their family dental practice once treatment is complete. Where a child has specific needs the dentist may offer to continue to see your child on a longer term basis.

Emergency dental care

If your child has toothache during the time you are waiting for an appointment from us you should contact the child’s usual dentist for emergency care care. For children who are not registered with a dental practice, you should contact NHS 24 on **111**.