

## **CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING LOCAL ANESTHESIA**

As part of today's treatment, your child received local anesthesia. The anesthesia will typically last 2-3 hours. During this time, it is **essential** that your child is watched carefully so as to prevent him/her from chewing, scratching or vigorously rubbing the numb area. Remind him/her to not bite on the numb tongue, cheek or lip. Your child should avoid eating on the affected side until the numbness has worn off.

Should your child bite or chew his/her lip or tongue, traumatic injury will result. Any bleeding that occurs may be controlled with firm pressure. The chewed area may appear swollen, ulcerated and white in color. This should not be confused with infection and does not require antibiotics. It usually heals uneventfully in 7-10 days.