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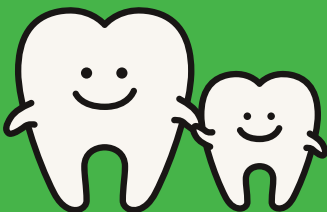
*Administration of
Nitrous Oxide / Oxygen
In Treating Children's
Dental Needs*



Smile Valley

EST.09

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY



IS NITROUS OXIDE/ OXYGEN SAFE?

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recognizes the administration of nitrous oxide/oxygen as a safe, effective technique to use for treating children's dental needs. Nitrous oxide (or laughing gas) is a colorless and virtually odorless gas with a faint, sweet smell. The gas is mild, easily taken in with normal breathing, and is quickly eliminated from the body. While inhaling nitrous oxide/oxygen, your child remains fully conscious and keeps all natural reflexes. It generally works well in children who have some degree of cooperation. The objectives of nitrous oxide/oxygen are to reduce pain and/or anxiety, enhance communication and patient cooperation, reduce gagging and increase tolerance for longer treatment appointments. Nitrous oxide/oxygen may not be effective for all patients, especially those who have severe anxiety; nasal congestion, extensive treatment needs, or discomfort wearing a nasal mask. Nitrous oxide/oxygen will not help once a child has become uncooperative or upset.

WHAT IS NITROUS OXIDE?

Nitrous oxide is a blend of two gases, oxygen and nitrous oxide. It is inhaled through a small mask that is worn on the nose.



HOW WILL MY CHILD FEEL WHILE ON NITROUS OXIDE?

The nitrous oxide makes children feel sleepy and relaxed. Your child will still be aware of what is happening around them, but will feel dreamy and floaty, warm, and have tingling in their hands and feet. They may be a little forgetful, and might not be able to remember the procedure afterwards.

HOW SAFE IS NITROUS OXIDE?

Studies have shown that it is perhaps one of the most safe and effective methods for reducing anxiety and discomfort during a dental procedure. Nitrous oxide is well-tolerated, non-addictive, has a rapid onset and is easily reversible.

Nitrous oxide can be adjusted to various levels and does not create any allergic reactions.



BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S APPOINTMENT:

1. Please have your child avoid eating 1 hour prior to the appointment. (Occasionally, nausea or vomiting occurs when a child has a full stomach.)
2. Contact the office prior to the appointment if there has been a change to your child's general health such as a stuffy nose, cough, cold, flu, fever, etc.

DURING THE PROCEDURE:

1. While giving the nitrous oxide, staff will monitor your child's level of sedation to ensure that they can still cooperate and follow verbal instructions.
2. You are welcome to be in the room during the procedure, however, to ensure that your child benefit the most from the nitrous oxide keeping a quiet environment is helpful.
3. The dental treatment will be carried out. Local anesthesia injections may also be given so that your child doesn't feel pain. These can be given while your child is sedated.

AFTER THE APPOINTMENT:

1. Your child will be able to resume normal activity after having nitrous oxide/oxygen.