

What to do in a dental emergency?

Here are some guidelines for the different types of dental emergencies your child may experience



1 STAY CALM

2 CALL US RIGHT AWAY

3 FOLLOW FIRST AID STEPS

Toothache

Clean the area around the sore tooth. Rinse the mouth vigorously with warm salt water to dislodge trapped food or debris. **DO NOT** place aspirin on the gum or the aching tooth. If face is swollen, apply a cold compress. Take acetaminophen for pain and see Dr. Mayes as soon as possible.

Broken Tooth

Rinse dirt from injured area with warm water. Place a cold compress over the face in the area of the injury. Locate and save any broken tooth fragments. **IMMEDIATE** dental attention is necessary.

Broken Space Maintainer

If a broken appliance can be removed easily, take it out. If it cannot, cover sharp or protruding portion with dental wax (available at most pharmacies). Contact Dr. Mayes office for an appointment. If you have a loose or broken orthodontic appliances, contact your orthodontist. Appliances which do not bother the child do not usually require emergency attention.

Knocked Out Permanent Tooth

Find the tooth. Handle the tooth by the top (crown), not the root portion. You may rinse the tooth, but **DO NOT** clean or handle it unnecessarily. Try to reinsert the tooth into its socket. Have the child hold the tooth in place by biting on a clean gauze or cloth. If you cannot reinsert the tooth, transport in a cup of milk or water. See Dr. Mayes **IMMEDIATELY!** Time is a critical factor in saving the tooth.

Object Caught Between Teeth

DO NOT try to remove the object with a sharp or pointed instrument. Gently try to remove the object with dental floss. If floss doesn't work, call Dr. Mayes office for an appointment.

Cut or Bitten Tongue, Lip or Cheek

Apply ice to bruised areas. If there is bleeding, apply firm but gentle pressure with a clean gauze or cloth. If bleeding does not stop after 15 minutes or it cannot be controlled by simple pressure, take the child to a hospital emergency room.

After-Hours Emergencies
For Established Patients, Please Call 909-529-6856