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## Larry Caldwell, D.D.S.

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*15200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 320  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478*

### **Behavior Management Policy**

Providing quality dental care for children requires expertise in directing child behavior. Our goal is to instill in the child, a positive attitude towards dentistry. Maintaining proper behavior of children while in the dental office demands skill of verbal guidance, prevention of inappropriate actions, and reinforcement of appropriate behavior. These techniques are used only for behavioral modification and not to reprimand or punish a child.

The following are various behavior management techniques used in this office.

- Positive Reinforcement: Social reinforcers such as verbal praise and non-social reinforcers such as rewards (toys, stickers).
- Tell-Show-Do: Explain procedures and instruments to the child with the use of modified terms such as “sleepy juice,” “water whistle,” and “wiggle tooth” rather than “shot,” “drill,” and “pull tooth.”
- Distraction: Use of distraction to divert the patients' attention from what he/she may perceive as unpleasantness.
- Voice Modification: Change of voice volume or tone to gain a child's attention and direct his/her behavior.
- Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Sedation: This is a very safe and effective conscious sedation method which is easily monitored. The onset of this sedation is quick and recovery is fast and complete before the child leaves the office.
- Pediwrap or Papoose: Partial or complete immobilization with the use of a blanket type wrap, is sometimes necessary to protect the child from injury while using dental instruments. This technique is only used in cases when it has been determined that all other forms of behavior management have not or will not be effective.

It is our office policy to minimize the use of more extreme forms of behavior management techniques and to implement them only when necessary.

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