

HEAD START DENTAL EMERGENCY FIRST AID

In the event of an accident to the tongue, lips, cheek, or teeth:

Attempt to calm the child. All incidents should be handled quietly and calmly; a panicked child is likely to create problems for treatment and may cause further trauma.

Call parent.

Check for bleeding. If the child is bleeding:

- a. Stop bleeding by applying pressure to the area.
- b. Apply ice, wrapped in clean cloth, for swelling.

If tooth is knocked out, fractured, chipped, broken, or loose:

- a. Staff should calm the child.
- b. If injured area is dirty, clean gently.
- c. Place cold compress on the face, in the injured area, to limit swelling.
- d. Call dentist and describe the injury.
- e. Take the child to a dentist for treatment (Do Not forget the tooth).
 1. Pick up tooth by the chewing surface – not the root.
 2. If dirty, gently rinse the tooth with water only.
 3. Reposition tooth in socket immediately, if possible.
 4. Keep tooth moist at all times:
 - Milk
 - Cool water with a pinch of salt
 - Emergency tooth preservation kit
 - Mouth, next to cheek
- f. Transport tooth and child to dentist.

If teeth are loosened in an accident or knocked into gums:

- a. Do not attempt to move the teeth or jaw.
- b. Rinse out the child's mouth.
- c. Take the child to the dentist immediately.

If injury to the tongue, cheeks or lips occurs:

- a. Rinse affected area.
- b. Apply ice, wrapped in clean cloth, to control swelling.
- c. Take the child to the dentist or a physician if bleeding continues or if the wound is large.

In the event of any other soft tissue injury, as in the case where the tongue or lips become stuck to an object and the tissue tears:

- a. Stop bleeding.
- b. Cover with moist sterile gauze.
- c. Take child to the dentist or to a physician.