

Chestnut Dental Associates Shares Critical Pediatric Emergency Response Guidance for Summer Season

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Chestnut Dental Associates, P.C. is providing essential guidance for parents on recognizing and responding to pediatric dental emergencies as outdoor activities and sports participation increase during the summer months. The practice emphasizes that a knocked-out permanent tooth requires specialist care within 30 minutes to have the best chance of being saved, making immediate response crucial.

While summer brings increased risk of dental trauma through sports and outdoor play, dental decay remains the most common reason children require emergency dental care. A study reviewing 253 pediatric emergency dental visits found decay-related pain to be the leading driver of urgent care needs, underscoring the importance of year-round emergency preparedness for families.

"Parents need to know that the first 30 minutes after a dental injury are absolutely critical, especially when dealing with a knocked-out permanent tooth," said Anne Hertzberg, D.M.D., Board Certified Pediatric Dentist at Chestnut Dental Associates. "Keeping the tooth moist in milk or saliva rather than letting it dry out,

controlling bleeding with clean gauze, and contacting a dental office immediately can make the difference between saving and losing a tooth."

When facing a pediatric dental emergency, parents should take specific immediate actions. First, they should remain calm to help keep the child calm. For a knocked-out tooth, the tooth should be handled by the crown only and placed in milk or held in the child's mouth against the cheek if they are old enough not to swallow it. Any bleeding should be controlled using clean gauze with gentle pressure. Parents should call their dental office right away to describe the situation before arriving, as this allows the practice to prepare for the child's arrival and provide immediate guidance.

Not every dental practice offers emergency coverage, which means families benefit significantly from identifying a specialist in advance rather than searching during a crisis. Board Certified Pediatric Dentists possess advanced training in dental trauma management and understand the unique developmental, behavioral, and emergency needs of children, distinguishing them from general dentists in their specialized approach to pediatric care.

"Having a pre-identified Bedford pediatric dentist who offers emergency coverage gives parents peace of mind and saves precious time when every minute counts," added Dr. Hertzberg. "The difference between pediatric specialists and general dentists becomes particularly apparent during emergencies, where child-specific expertise in both clinical care and behavioral management is essential."

Beyond knocked-out teeth, parents should seek immediate specialist care when children experience severe dental pain, facial swelling, or uncontrolled bleeding. These symptoms may indicate serious conditions requiring prompt professional intervention. Additionally, follow-up appointments are often necessary after initial emergency treatment to ensure proper healing and prevent complications.

Chestnut Dental Associates, P.C. operates locations in Needham, Franklin, and Bedford, Massachusetts, providing comprehensive pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and adult cosmetic dentistry services. The practice maintains 24-hour emergency call coverage through Board Certified Pediatric Dentists and has served the community since 1970, maintaining close relationships with Boston Children's Hospital and the Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

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CHESTNUT DENTAL ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Chestnut Dental provides Pediatric, Orthodontic, and Adult Cosmetic Dentistry in a family-friendly setting. Evening, Saturday, and emergency care are available. Board-certified pediatric specialists and Invisalign or traditional braces for all ages.

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