

Chestnut Dental Publishes Emergency Guidance for Parents on Pediatric Dental Trauma

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NEEDHAM, MA - August 04, 2026 -
Chestnut Dental Associates has released comprehensive guidance to help parents recognize and respond to pediatric dental emergencies, addressing a critical awareness gap that can mean the difference between saving or losing a child's permanent tooth.

The guidance, published in July 2026, comes as summer activities increase the risk of dental trauma among children. The publication emphasizes that parents have approximately 30 minutes to save a knocked-out permanent tooth, yet many families lack a pre-identified emergency dental resource since not all dental offices provide emergency care.

According to research examining 253 children who sought emergency dental treatment, decay-related pain represents the most common reason for pediatric emergency dental visits. This finding underscores the importance of both preventive care and emergency preparedness for families with children.

"Parents often don't realize that time is absolutely critical when dealing with dental trauma," said Anne Hertzberg, D.M.D., a Board Certified Pediatric Dentist at Chestnut Dental. "Having an emergency plan in place before an incident occurs can dramatically improve outcomes, especially for knocked-out permanent teeth where every minute counts."

The guidance outlines essential first steps parents should take during a dental emergency: staying calm to reassure the child, controlling any bleeding with gentle pressure, preserving a knocked-out tooth in milk or saliva rather than water, and calling their dental office immediately. These initial actions can significantly impact the success of emergency treatment.

Chestnut Dental maintains 24-hour emergency call coverage through its Board Certified Pediatric Dentists, who possess advanced training in dental trauma management. The practice's Bedford location, situated within Emerson Health Primary Care Bedford at 41 North Road, operates extended hours from 7:45 AM to 8 PM on weekdays to accommodate urgent situations.

The publication distinguishes between true dental emergencies requiring immediate specialist attention and situations that can wait for regular office hours. Uncontrolled bleeding, severe facial swelling, facial trauma, and knocked-out permanent teeth constitute immediate emergencies. The guidance notes that massachusetts dental emergencies involving children often require specialized pediatric expertise due to developmental and behavioral considerations unique to young patients.

"The difference between a pediatric dental specialist and a general dentist becomes particularly important during emergencies," explained Dr. Hertzberg. "Children's developing teeth and jaws require specific treatment approaches, and managing a frightened or injured child demands specialized training in child psychology and behavior management."

The guidance also addresses common misconceptions about dental emergencies. Many parents incorrectly believe that baby teeth injuries are inconsequential, when in fact trauma to primary teeth can affect developing permanent teeth underneath. Additionally, the publication warns that a single emergency visit may not resolve all issues, as some dental injuries require monitoring and follow-up treatment over time.

Beyond immediate trauma response, the guidance emphasizes prevention strategies and the importance of regular dental care in avoiding decay-related emergencies. Since dental decay remains the leading cause of pediatric dental emergencies, routine preventive care serves as the first line of defense against emergency situations.

The publication represents part of Chestnut Dental's ongoing commitment to community education and pediatric oral health. The practice, which has served Massachusetts families since 1970, maintains

collaborative relationships with Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard School of Dental Medicine, ensuring access to the latest pediatric dental research and treatment protocols.

Chestnut Dental operates three locations across Massachusetts in Needham, Franklin, and Bedford, providing comprehensive pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and adult cosmetic dentistry services. The practice's team includes prosthodontists, periodontists, orthodontists, and pediatric dentists who coordinate care across specialties.

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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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