



Positive Practice Terminology

In order to reduce anxiety and create a positive experience for your child in our office, we are selective in our use of words. We try to avoid words that may be “scary” for your child to hear while in the dental office. Please help us create a positive experience for your child by NOT USING negative words that are often used for dental care.



“Scary” Words

Needle/Shot
Get numb
Drill
Drill on tooth
Pull tooth/Yank tooth
Decay/Cavity
Examination
Tooth cleaning
Explorer
Gas/Nitrous
Suction

Our Equivalent



Sleepy juice
Make tooth sleepy
Whistle or scrubber brush
Clean tooth
Wiggle tooth
Sugar bug/Cavity bug
Count teeth
Tickle teeth
Tooth counter
Laughing gas
Straw/Vacuum

By familiarizing yourself with our Positive Practice Terminology, you will be able to better understand your child’s description of the dental experience. Our intention is not to “fool” your child, it is to create a positive, gentle experience. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us create a happy dental visit for your family!