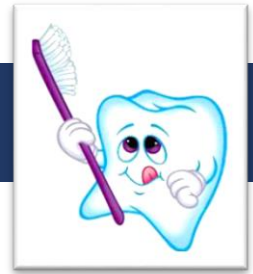


Treatment at Children's Dental Service



Here are the main treatments we do;

Fillings are needed to restore teeth after the decay has been cleaned out. If the cavity is large or goes down the side of the tooth, we will usually numb the tooth up before starting treatment. The majority of fillings we place are white ones (composite) but sometimes we will need to use a temporary filling material or have to consider a silver (amalgam) filling.

There are several situations where a **temporary filling** may need to be placed, and your dentist will let you know if this is the case. They usually last several months but will eventually wear down and so regular checking is important.



Stainless Steel Crowns are usually easy to put on the baby teeth and cover all surfaces to protect the tooth from decay until it wobbles out naturally. They can often be placed without cleaning or numbing the tooth, so they are very useful in younger children or those who would struggle with more complicated treatment. They are the treatment of choice when the hole is very big and are less likely than fillings to need replacing.

Extractions are needed if a tooth has become infected, if it is too broken down for a restoration, or if it came through with sensitive/weak enamel. Teeth can be taken out in the chair, with or without sedation (see below) or under general anaesthetic if necessary, but this will be decided with your dentist. We do not do extractions for orthodontic reasons; these will be done by your family dentist

- ❖ Some children are naturally hesitant when it comes to dental treatment and may need a few appointments to get used to the environment and equipment we use.
- ❖ For some children who are anxious about dental treatment, we have the option for them to try **inhalation sedation**. Treatment is done in the dental chair but children will be very relaxed and often don't remember the details afterwards. An assessment is needed to see if this is a suitable option for the family and there will be a longer wait for these appointments
- ❖ Very young children, those who are uncooperative or have special needs, or children requiring a lot of difficult treatment might be best having treatment under a **general anaesthetic**. This is done in the Day Patient Unit at the hospital and involves an anaesthetic assessment. Again, waiting list times vary but will be longer than for treatment within the department