



BICTON AND
COCKBURN
paediatric
dentistry

Managing your child with Autism

All our Paediatric Dentists are very experienced in managing children with Autism. We are also aware that as a parent you may be anxious about your child's first dental appointment. You may be worrying that your child may have an unpleasant experience, or perhaps worried that you will feel embarrassed in the event your child is not compliant. Please feel reassured that our staff are very supportive of parents who have children with Autism and every effort will be made to work with you to develop a positive outcome.

We are aware that there are many stimuli in a dental surgery that may provoke anxiety in your child. These may include noises, smells, bright lights, tastes, textures and the fear of the unknown. We have found some parents find it helpful to develop a plan with one of our Paediatric Dentists prior to their child's first appointment. This will be a 15 minute appointment with or without your child to discuss your areas of concern and for you to explain to us what techniques you feel will assist your child in having a positive dental experience. There will also be techniques for you to practice at home as well as a personalised social story book for you to take home.

Please find below an **optional** questionnaire that may assist you, your child and the dental team during the first appointment.

Please bring the completed questionnaire to your appointment

or email reception:

Bicton Patients: reception@paediatric-dentists.com.au

Cockburn Patients: cockburnreception@paediatric-dentists.com.au

Your Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____



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Has your child visited the dentist before?

If yes, how did your child cope?

What is your goal for today's appointment? (Desensitisation? Thorough examination?)

Do you think your child has dental pain?

Please describe your child's at-home dental care:

Does your child brush independently or with assistance?

Is your child on a particular diet?

Does your child communicate verbally?

Are there useful phrases or words that work best with your child?

Please list any specific sounds your child is sensitive to:

Does your child prefer the quiet?

Would you prefer the overhead TV turned off?

Is your child more comfortable in a dimly lit room?

Is your child sensitive to motion (such as the dental chair reclining)?

Does your child have any specific oral sensitivities (gagging)?

Do certain tastes bother your child? (Mint toothpaste?)

Please provide us with any additional information that may help us prepare for a successful dental appointment.