

To achieve a more positive dental experience we have listed some child friendly words and phrases to replace conventional words that may cause your child to become scared or anxious before his/her appointment. We feel strongly that with your support in avoiding negative terminology that is often used for dental care, that your child will have a good dental visit.

Conventional terminology

Child friendly terminology

Examination

Count teeth

Tooth cleaning

Tickle teeth

Explorer/pick

Tooth counter

Rotten teeth

Severe decay

Hurt/pain

Discomfort/bother

Gas (Nitrous oxide)

Happy air

Rubber dam

Rain coat

Numb

Sleepy tooth

Needle/shot

Sleepy juice

Drill

Tooth whistle

Drill on tooth

Chase sugar bugs away

Pull/yank tooth

Wiggle the tooth