

## **Post-Operative Instructions for a Stainless Steel Crown (Prefabricated pediatric crown)**

**Numbness:** Your child was given an injection of local anesthesia to numb his/her teeth. Your child's mouth will be sleeping for approximately 2-3 hours. Please watch your child so he/she does not bite his tongue, cheek or lip. As a note, some children may be upset when they realize their mouth feels "different." Reassure your child that the tooth will wake up and the "funny feeling" will go away.

**Pulpotomy:** Your child (has or has not) also had a pulpotomy procedure (baby tooth root canal). Post-operative sensitivity can be increased with this procedure, but generally is not. Pulpotomy-treated primary teeth should resorb like normal baby teeth, but can sometimes dissolve faster. We may take periodic x-rays at your child's usual check-up appointments to monitor these baby teeth.

**Diet:** The Crown that your child has had placed today is cemented onto the tooth with a dental cement that contains fluoride. This cement takes about 12 hours to achieve its final set. A soft diet for the rest of the day is suggested. Crowns may come off if your child eats sticky candies and fruit snacks. Please avoid these as long as your child has any crowns on his/her teeth.

**Oral Hygiene:** The gums may appear red and irritated following your child's appointment and a slight amount of bleeding is normal. This will go away within a few days of good home oral hygiene. It is important to continue normal brushing and flossing around the stainless steel crown.

**Comfort:** Sensitivity for a limited time is expected after the placement of a stainless steel crown. Over-the-counter pain medicine (children's ibuprofen) may be given in the appropriate dose for your child. Generally, sensitivity is limited to the soft tissue (area around the gums). However, if your child is unable to eat, bite or chew, please call us.

**Additional Info:** Your child's stainless steel crown should remain in place until the adult tooth comes in. If the crown comes off, please call our office immediately so we can recement the crown.

Image courtesy of Dr Johnston and Dr Gregory, [Prime Childrens Dental Care](http://www.primecfdc.com.au/home.html)  
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