Your child had a tooth removed. Medicine was used to numb the tooth and the area around it. Watch your child so he does not bite his lip, cheek or tongue. Feeling will return to the area in several hours. The following information will help you care for our child at home.

**Healing**

Your child should not bother the area where the tooth was taken out. Do not let him touch the area with his finger or other objects. This could cause irritation, bleeding or infection. A blood clot will form as a part of the healing process. It should not be removed. Avoid brushing this area of the mouth for the rest of the day. Brush the rest of the teeth and mouth as usual.

**Bleeding**

Some bleeding is normal. Your child will have gauze placed where the tooth was removed. Do not remove the gauze for 30 minutes. If the bleeding continues, place a new gauze for another 30 minutes. Oozing may be seen for some time. Remember that blood is mixing with saliva, which adds to the amount of oozing. For some tooth extractions, a special material is put in the area. It will dissolve naturally and should not be taken out.

**Swelling**

Most extractions in children do not require cold packs. If a cold pack is needed to reduce swelling, it should be placed on the face over the area where the tooth was removed for 15 minutes. Then, remove it for 15 minutes. Repeat this for up to 4 hours.

**Pain**

Give your child the prescribed medications exactly as the doctor has ordered. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Children's Motrin® or Advil®) can be given for pain or discomfort. Follow the package instructions for the amount to give your child based on his age and weight. Do not use both of these medications at the same time.

**Diet**

Do not give your child food or drink for at least one hour after the bleeding has stopped. After the numb feeling is gone, begin with soft foods and then give regular foods as tolerated. Remind your child to chew away from the area where the tooth was removed. This will prevent food from getting stuck in this area.

**Special Instructions**

- Avoid heat to this area – no heat packs, hot foods, or hot drinks – for 24 hours.
- Do not gargle or swish water in the mouth for 24 hours.
- No drinking through straws, spitting, or sucking thumb or finger for 24 hours.
- No soda pop or carbonated drinks for 24 hours – the fizz may disturb the formed clot.
• No rough play for 24 hours – provide your child with quiet activities during this time.

• Give all prescribed medications exactly as the doctor has ordered:

  ________________________________ every ____________ hours

  ________________________________ every ____________ hours

Call the Dental Clinic at (816) 234-3257 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or call (816) 234-3000 and ask for the dentist-on-call at other times, if:

• Your child has a fever greater than 101° F (38.3° C)

• Your child has severe bleeding or bleeding for more than ________________________________.

• Your child complains of severe pain.

• You have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s teeth.