

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A TOOTH INJURY

Tooth trauma occurs in about 50% of children during childhood! Most of these injuries leave little lasting effects, however the possibility of future complications increase relative to the severity of the tooth injury. This form is designed to help you understand what to expect with your child's injury. Please work with us to help monitor for any of these changes.

WHAT DOES THE DIAGNOSIS MEAN?

Concussion – “bonk” that can cause a bruise like injury to the supporting structures and nerve

Subluxation – injury that can cause a sprain like injury to the supporting structures of the tooth, loosening it and allowing it to wiggle.

Luxation – injury that displaces the tooth through the bone surrounding the tooth, lodging it in an abnormal position and severely damaging supporting structures.

Avulsion – injury that completely dislodges a tooth from the socket.

Fracture – a break in the hard part of the tooth, which may be categorized by the location and type of tissue it involves.

NON-HARMFUL CHANGES (WEEKS – MONTHS)

- **Color changes** (in baby teeth): traumatized teeth may change color. The color may range from a light yellow to a dark grey or brown and may persist for years without problems.
- Temporary discomfort, mobility, or swelling.



HARMFUL COMPLICATIONS (MONTHS – YEARS)

- **Abscess**: a pimple or boil may appear above the traumatized tooth.
- Continued or worsening discomfort, mobility, or swelling.



LONG TERM HARMFUL COMPLICATIONS (MONTHS – DECADES)

- **Tooth Damage/Enamel Hypoplasia**: Severe damage to a **BABY** tooth may result in damage to the permanent tooth underneath, especially if the injury occurs before the age of 3. This damage (hypoplasia) may manifest as a missing a portion of enamel, a change in the texture of enamel, or a change in color of the permanent tooth.
- **Nerve damage**: Injury to a permanent tooth may sever the nerve and blood supply emerging from the bottom of the tooth, causing the tooth to eventually need a root canal to prevent or eliminate infection and discoloration.
- **Abnormal position/Root damage/Ankylosis**: An injury that affects the supporting structures of the tooth and the tooth root surface may cause the connections to break down (resorb) or fuse (ankylose). If the junction breaks down, the tooth may need treatment to prevent further breakdown. If it fuses, the junction will anchor the tooth in place. This can present problems with growth (ankylosed teeth will appear submerged in relation to its neighbors), and orthodontic treatment (ankylosed teeth will not move with braces).

