

## Child Safety Policy

The practice is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for young children. For the purpose of this policy a young child is defined as somebody who their parent or carer considers is too young to visit the dental practice on their own. This practice recognises the complexity of laws regulating child minding and has created this policy because team members do not have the training or insurance to look after other people's children.

Whilst on the premises young children must be accompanied by a parent or carer at all times. Team members are unable to accept the responsibility for looking after young children whilst their parent or carer is having dental treatment.

The practice will not permit children to sit on their parent's lap whilst the parent is receiving any form of treatment, including hygiene work.

The practice will only allow a young child to sit on their parent's lap in surgery when: the parent is having an exam only, no sharp/hazardous instruments are within close proximity to the child, the child is very settled and not distressed in any way.

The practice reserves the right to stop treatment and rearrange an appointment if children in the surgery pose a distraction or risk to themselves.

Reception staff will advise the parents or carers of young children to make childcare arrangements when planning their dental appointments, whenever possible. If childcare arrangements cannot be made, the reception staff will ask the parent or carer to take the child into the treatment room with them.

If the parent or carer is unable to co-operate, the reception staff will consult with the Practice Manager, Sarah Hill

This policy operates together with the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy (M 233-CVP).