Dental Fracture, Dental Injury

You or your child has a dental fracture or injury. This can mean the tooth is loose, has a chip in the enamel or is broken. If just the outer enamel is chipped, there is a good chance the tooth will not become infected. The only treatment needed may be to smooth off a rough edge. **Fractures into the deeper layers *(dentin and pulp)* cause greater pain and are more likely to become infected. These require you to see a dentist as soon as possible to save the tooth.**

Loose teeth may need to be wired or bonded with a plastic splint to hold them in place. A paste may be painted on the open area of the broken tooth to reduce the pain. Antibiotics and pain medicine may be prescribed. Choosing a soft or liquid diet and rinsing the mouth out with warm water after meals may be helpful.

See your dentist as recommended. Failure to seek care or follow up with a dentist or other specialist as recommended could result in the loss of your tooth, infection or permanent dental problems.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is increased pain not controlled with medications.
- There is swelling around the tooth, in the face or neck.
- There is bleeding which starts, continues or gets worse.
- You or your child has an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C).
- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 100.5º F (38.1° C) or higher for more than 1 day.

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