

Practice Preparation for Dental Care for Patients with Disabilities

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Before Visit

- Have health history completed or updated at least 2 weeks before the appointment.
- Add additional questions to prepare for the visit:
 - Able to sit for treatment?
 - Homecare?
 - Accommodations needed?
- Contact the patient's physician for more details and clarification.
- Schedule a short meet and greet appointment.
- Learn who is the person responsible for signing consents. (Legal guardian)
- Learn who the caregiver is. (Not always the same as the legal guardian)
- Work with caregiver to help them prepare the patient for the visit.

During Visit

- Prepare a video or picture book of the office, from entry to operatory, to help familiarize the patient with the surroundings.
- Consider all issues when scheduling. First appointment of the morning or of the session is usually the best to avoid anxiety.
- Consider any communication alterations that may be needed.
- Have the operatory prepared for any needed adjustments before bringing the patient back.
- Have post treatment instructions, including homecare instructions printed for the patient.
- Additional auxiliaries available to avoid break in treatment procedure.

Indiana Disability Organizations

It might be helpful to check for associations and groups specific to a disorder for more information on physical, developmental, and behavioral complications.

- Down Syndrome Indiana
Website: <https://dsindiana.org>
- Autism Society of Indiana
Website: www.autismsocietyofindiana.org
- Indiana Resource Center for Autism
Website: www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca
- United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana
Website: www.ucpaindy.org

Contact the Library at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community for additional resources.

Website: www.iidc.indiana.edu/library
Phone: 812-855-9396
Email: libiidc@indiana.edu

Networking and Resources

American Association of Public Health Dentists
Website: <http://www.aaphd.org>

Dental Lifeline Network
Website: <https://dentallifeline.org/>

Colgate Oral Care Center
Website: <https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/developmental-disabilities/dental-health-care-for-children-with-special-need>