It is important that children remain calm and still during dental treatment to prevent injury to the child and dental staff and to receive a high quality of professional dental care. For children who are afraid, uncooperative, or too young to understand dental treatment, Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen for analgesia may be very beneficial in helping the child relax.

The following information will help parents understand sedation with the use of a combination of Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen gases for safe analgesia.

- It is very safe because the child remains awake, responsive, and breathes on his/her own without assistance.
- Much more oxygen is given than what we breathe in normal room air. This provides a wide margin for safety. Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen is usually breathed through a small mask placed over the nose.
- Dental treatment is more comfortable and time seems to pass faster for a relaxed child.
- Sometimes known as “laughing gas” because some patients become so comfortable and relaxed they laugh.
- A local anesthetic is given, if needed, to numb the areas that are to be treated so that there is very little discomfort.
- 3-5 minutes of pure-oxygen is given at the end of treatment to remove effects of the Nitrous Oxide gas.
- The child is awake and sometimes remains relaxed after dental treatment but will continue to feel the numbness in the treated area.
- Please feel comfortable in discussing with us any other questions you may have about the procedures.