



Children's Hospital Boston

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**HARVARD SCHOOL
OF DENTAL MEDICINE**

Division of Pediatric Dentistry

Department of Oral and Developmental Biology

Care Instructions Following Oral/Dental Trauma (Injury)

How should I treat the affected area?

Clean the traumatized area by gently brushing today. Thereafter, more vigorous, normal brushing should be resumed. Be certain to brush both in front of and behind the affected area.

What should I do about pain?

If necessary, a medication such as Tylenol[®] or Advil[®] or other non-aspirin containing products can be taken.

Should my child follow a special diet?

Soft to normal diet as tolerated by your child. If pain is elicited with biting or chewing on the affected teeth, avoid using this area for a few days or as instructed.

What is the prognosis?

Discoloration of the injured tooth within one month of the trauma indicates that bleeding occurred within the tooth at the time of the injury. Any injury may result in necrosis (death) of the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. This can occur at any time and is most likely from severe injuries. Signs of nerve death can include: PAIN, either spontaneous or upon chewing; DISCOLORATION of the tooth later than one month after the trauma, REDDENING, swelling or formation of a "pimple" on the gum above the injured tooth.