A tooth removal is also called an **extraction.** Your child may feel uncomfortable or have some pain after the extraction. Here are some ways you can care for your child at home.

Can I give my child non-prescription (over-the-counter) pain medicine?

**If your health care provider says it’s OK,** you may give your child non-prescription pain medicine, like acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Motrin®), as needed. Follow the instructions on the bottle, and do not give more than the recommended dose for your child’s age or weight.

Always talk with your health care provider about any allergies your child may have before giving over-the-counter medication.

What helps with swelling?

Your child may have some swelling in the area where the tooth was removed. Put an ice bag on their face for 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off. Only do this on the day of the extraction.

What can my child eat?

Give your child foods that are liquid-like and soft. You could try pasta, scrambled eggs, oatmeal, yogurt, soup or mashed potatoes.

How do I care for the extraction site?

* Have your child bite on a gauze pad for 20 minutes if there is bleeding.
* If the area keeps bleeding, have them continue to bite on a new gauze pad until the bleeding stops.
* Your child should not rinse, spit heavily or use a straw for 24 hours after the extraction.

### Contact us

**Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.:** Call Boston Children’s Dental Department at (617) 355-6571

**After hours and on weekends:** Call Boston Children’s page operator at (617) 355-6363 and ask to page the dentist on call.