Michigan Autism Training Videos Presents:

Behavioral Approaches to Preparing Children for Medical, Dental and Personal Care Appointments

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of child</th>
<th>Predominant “Fear” Stimuli</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Loud noises, strangers, sudden changes, loss of support</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Separation from parent, strangers, masks</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Separation from parent, being left alone, masks, dark</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Masks, dark rooms, animals, insects</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Monsters, ghosts, thunder, wild animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>School fears, supernatural, physical danger</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Social fears, war, health, bodily injury, school performance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Disruptive “escape” behaviors include:
- verbal distress - crying, moaning, complaining
- behavioral distress - flinching, blocking, turning away

If dentists stop to reprimand these behaviors, that brief escape can encourage more misbehavior
LUSCRE & CENTER, 1996

Children with autism watched typical children:
- Play in waiting area
- Leave with dentist
- Enter operatory
- Sit in chair
- Lean back
- Wear apron
- Accept light on
- Open mouth
- Accept mirror
- Accept explorer
- Accept suction
- Tolerate exam

Got praise and treats if watched then imitated models

All completed dental exam