Dental Clinic
Social Story

Nationwide Children’s
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.
Welcome to Nationwide Children’s Hospital
I am going to the Dental Clinic at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.
I will check in on the second floor where I will see pink walls!
I will wait in the lobby until my name is called. When my name is called, I will walk back with the dental assistant.
When I get to the room, I get to sit in this cool chair. The chair moves up and down and goes back. It will be like laying in a bed.
My caregiver will sit in a different chair.
The dental team may be wearing gloves, masks, gowns, and goggles. This is to make sure everyone stays safe!
The dental assistant will then ask some questions and look inside my mouth at my teeth. They will turn on a light to make sure they can see into my mouth.
I may need to put on glasses while I am laying back in the chair. I will need to keep my mouth open while they look in it.
There is an overhead light above my chair and a TV too, if I want to watch something.
The dental team may want to take pictures of my teeth. I will need to open and close my mouth when they ask. If my mouth gets tired, they may give me something to rest my teeth on so my mouth stays open.
The dentist will come in and check my teeth to make sure everything is okay. They will talk to my parent or caregiver after they are done looking at my teeth.
The dentist will use a small mirror and a tooth counter to check my teeth.
They will put the mirror in my mouth so they can see my teeth, gums, and tongue. They will use the tooth counter to touch my teeth and check if they are strong.
The dentist or assistant will clean my teeth with a special toothbrush that tickles my teeth. They might give me choices of toothpaste flavor to use. I can also bring my favorite toothpaste from home if I wish!
It is important that the special toothbrush touches and vibrates over my teeth. It might feel weird when they clean my teeth, but I can sit and watch the TV while they are cleaning!
The assistant will squirt water into my mouth to rinse it out, then place a small suction into my mouth (which can sound like a vacuum). It will help suck up all the water and toothpaste.
The dentist will use a small piece of gauze (napkin) to dry my teeth. The dentist will then use a small paintbrush to paint on fluoride vitamins. I will then close my mouth and swallow.
The dental chair will move back into a seated position.
When I am done, I will get a sticker or a prize. I might even get a new toothbrush! Coming to the dentist is fun.