



# Helping Hands

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## PRIMARY TOOTH CROWNS

A crown can be made up of many different materials. The main crowns used in pediatric dentistry are silver stainless steel crowns and white composite resin crowns. A tooth is in need of a crown if it has decay on it that overwhelms the majority of the tooth. If the tooth is mainly cavity, it is difficult for fillings to last for long periods of time because there is not much healthy tooth left for the filling material to adhere to. When this is the case, a crown is recommended.

Stainless steel crowns are placed on the back teeth. The stainless steel is a much stronger material than the composite material, so it can withstand a lot more wear from everyday chewing. The stainless steel crowns are glued to the tooth with special tooth cement. This cement is very strong; however, it can still be pulled off of the tooth if not taken care of properly. Children with crowns are discouraged from eating sticky or chewy things, such as caramels and taffy. These types of food can pull the crown off of the tooth. If this does happen, please hold on to the crown and notify our office. We will schedule your child as soon as we can to get the crown glued back on. It is very important that you call our office as soon as possible after noticing the crown has fallen off as the tooth may shift if not seen in a timely manner. If this shifting does occur, the tooth will need to be made “numb” to replace the crown. The tooth under the crown can be sensitive and is prone to more decay. We also use white crowns that are made up of a composite material, like our white fillings. These crowns are only placed on anterior, or front, teeth. The same rules apply with these crowns as with the SSC.

After the procedure is completed, you may want to give your child some Children’s Motrin or Tylenol. The gums and tissues around the new crown may be irritated and bloody for some time. This is very common and will go away shortly. A crown is a safe and efficient way to fix a large cavity or a tooth that has received nerve therapy.