

Little William – Dental Cheshire & Merseyside

I was introduced to “Little” William who came running into the surgery with his mum. William was clutching his favourite red Tele tubby teddy.

Mum was anxious and said her little boy has not had a proper dental check-up and wasn't sure how we would manage him. I reassured mum and asked if she had any dental concerns about her son. William was not in any pain and his mum would try and attempt to brush his teeth. Medical history revealed he has Autism.

Little William was very curious and wanted to explore the surgery. Sitting on the dental chair for an examination was not on his mind.

The ever friendly and smiley dental nurse was chatting all along with mum and William and trying to make them feel comfortable.

We did not restrict his movements. After few minutes I playfully asked if his tele tubby wants to get his teeth checked. This caught William's attention and he willingly sat on the dental chair with his toy.

I pretended to examine his tele tubby's teeth with a plastic mirror and complimented that the toy was really doing well getting his teeth checked. Then we let William check his mum's teeth. Now it was William's turn to get his teeth checked. He let me count them briefly. He had all his baby teeth and they appeared to be fine.

The nurse then suggested that mum could take a photo on her IPAD. She could show the pictures at home so that he can visualise his visit to the dentist. It would be easier for him to get familiarised for his next visit and would not be nervous about the unknown.

I gave the mum tooth brushing and oral hygiene instructions. Diet advice was given. We gave tooth paste and tooth brush pack for her to try at home, it was a non-foamy tooth paste, without any flavours. William may like them and then be happy to brush with them.

Mum was very emotional by now, according to her he had not received any attention at the Dentist in the past. He was not given a chance to be made comfortable to get his teeth checked. We let the mum know that she was a wonderful mum doing amazing looking after her little boy.

I suggested we would see him again in a few months for his next check-up of his teeth and he might let us examine more and may let us apply fluoride varnish protective gel as well.

We need to take baby steps and make William's dental check-ups as compatible as possible.

It is lovely that mum has written such an uplifting email praising our services. We all as a part Bridgewater Team try our best to make patients comfortable and provide necessary advice and treatments.