

Joey goes to the dentist

Candace Vittorini and Sara Boyer-Quick
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Joey goes to the dentist is one of many books written to familiarize children with a visit to the dentist. What makes this book special is that it is written for children with Asperger syndrome. These children are very sensitive to the invasion of personal space and physical sensations. A visit to the dentist or dental hygienist always involves both.

In this colourful book, it is shown how Joey is prepared for a visit to the dentist. But, even more interesting – and certainly very instructive – are Joey's coping strategies.

The topics discussed are: the preparation to the visit, the visit itself which involves the taking of radiographs, the mouth inspection and the giving of fluoride. Every step is explained in detail.

The text is divided into black text (explaining Joey's sentiments and how he copes) and the text in multicoloured boxes (explaining what is happening at that moment). The book is illustrated with detailed photographs. At the end of the book is a list of addresses or websites from both the USA and the UK where more information can be found.

This book is recommended reading for the dental profession as it quickly gives you an insight into how you can help children with Asperger syndrome in the dental practice and understand their possible coping strategies. It is a fascinating topic and makes the reader want to know more about people with Asperger syndrome.

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