

Specialist Paediatric Dental Service

# Preparing a child for local anaesthetic



[cityhealthdental.co.uk](http://cityhealthdental.co.uk)

Having dental treatment under local anaesthetic involves having an injection into the gum to numb the tooth being treated. This is called the 'numbing injection' or just 'numbing'.



## Before

Children should have something to eat and drink before treatment to make sure they don't feel dizzy.



## Talking to your dentist

It can sometimes be difficult to talk to the dentist while your mouth is wide open.

That's where hand signals can help. Thumbs up will let the dentist know everything is OK. Thumbs down or just raising a hand will tell the dentist to stop and ask what is wrong.



## During

The dentist will put some numbing gel on the gum to make it go to sleep.

When the gum is numb, the dentist will put some numbing medicine into the gum with a very small injection.



## After

The lips, cheeks or tongue may feel numb for up to 4 hours after treatment. Wait until the mouth feels normal again before eating. This will stop the risk of accidentally burning or biting the numb areas.