My child has a toothache, what should I do?

To comfort your child, rinse their mouth with warm salt water, and apply a cold compress to their face, if it is swollen. Do not put heat or Aspirin on the sore area, but you may give your child Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen for pain. Generally, Ibuprofen works better for toothache due to its anti-inflammatory effect. See your pediatric dentist as soon as possible.

There could be many reasons for a toothache, varying in their severity. The majority of toothaches are caused by tooth decay, which has worn down the tooth’s enamel, exposing the sensitive nerves beneath. Food getting stuck into the gums, canker sores, or a new tooth coming in may also feel like a toothache. However tooth pain can also be caused by an accidental fall or collision in which the tooth or jaw is injured.

Trauma to the teeth should never be taken lightly. If you know your child has had an accident, or if you see a chipped tooth, it’s best to see your pediatric dentist for an examination as soon as possible. This will ensure that your child's pain is minimized and that s/he will receive the immediate dental care that is needed.

When it comes to painful cavities, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. So start teaching your kids early about the importance of regular flossing and brushing and create healthy eating habits for life.