

How do I help my child look after the crown?

The crowns will behave like a normal tooth and your child should treat it like one. They should brush it twice a day along with the other teeth, and floss between the teeth as advised. The risk of the crown becoming loose or being swallowed is very low.

How long do they last?

The crown should stay in place until the baby tooth falls out naturally (10–12 years of age). Sometimes the crown may wear through on the biting surface and need to be replaced or repaired. Rarely, the tooth with the crown on may need to be extracted (taken out) before then.

Giving my consent (permission)

We want to involve you in decisions about your child's care and treatment. If you decide to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This states that you agree for your child to have the treatment and you understand what it involves. If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for your child.

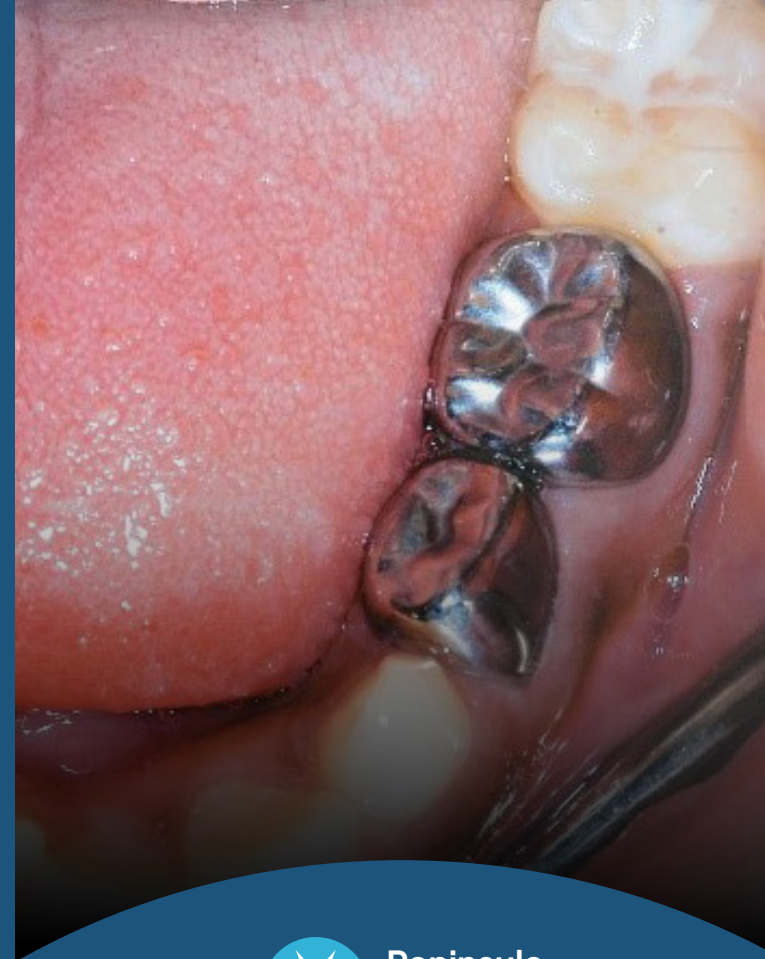
Any further questions?

Please speak to the dental professional providing your child's care or email:

pdse-info@plymouth.ac.uk

This leaflet is also available on our website

peninsuladental.org.uk



**Peninsula
Dental**
Social Enterprise

Children's Dentistry Information Series

Stainless Steel Crowns

This leaflet explains more about stainless steel crowns for your child, including the benefits, risks and any alternatives and what you and your child can expect when you come for treatment. If you have any further questions, please speak to the dental professional providing your child's care.

What is a stainless steel crown?

Stainless steel crowns can help to protect primary molars (baby back teeth). They are metal crowns made from stainless steel, with nickel and chrome. The crowns are pre-made and come in a range of sizes.

Why does my child need a stainless steel crown?

On big cavities in back teeth, they last longer than fillings. They are used to treat teeth that have decayed or not formed well. A crown can help to keep a space in the mouth for the adult tooth.

Are there any other options?

White fillings can be used but do not last as long and will need replacing. Fillings may not be suitable for very decayed or weak teeth. Taking out the tooth is the other option.

What are the risks?

There may be mild pain after placing the crown. Sometimes the crown will not sit down fully on the tooth. If the decay is too deep in the tooth the tooth may need to be removed instead.

What do they look like?

They are bright and shiny. They are placed on back molar teeth so are usually less visible than you might think. Children are usually pleased to have a shiny tooth rather than one with a hole in it.



How can I prepare my child for stainless steel crown placement?

Your child can eat and drink normally before the treatment. They will be able to go back to school afterwards. They should be prepared to feel some pushing and pressure during placement. The glue we use to cement the crown in place has a strange taste, but we remove the extra glue straight away. When they are first fitted please distract your child from picking at the crowns as they may become loose.

What happens during the treatment?

In most cases treatment involves pushing the crown into place over the tooth. This can be done with your child awake, sometimes by numbing the gum with gel first. Normally no local anaesthetic or drilling of the tooth is needed. Treatment takes around 30 minutes. We may put elastic band separators between the teeth for 1 week before fitting the crown.

What happens after the treatment and when my child goes home?

The crown may feel tight on the tooth for the first few days. If you think your child needs it, provide painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. You may also notice that the crown appears 'high' in the bite, and your child may not be able to fully close their teeth together when it has first been put in. This usually settles after a few weeks.

Will my child have a follow-up appointment?

We will continue to provide regular checkups, and preventative dental care up to your child's 16th birthday.