

IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN PREPARING FOR YOUR INITIAL VISIT WITH YOUR CHILD AFTER SURGERY

Your child is receiving general anesthesia, which keeps him/her asleep and allows the surgery to be completed. As a child awakens from general anesthesia, he/she may experience some of the following behaviors:

- 1) The child may be very sleepy, may not respond to his/her name, but may respond to gentle touching and stimulation.
- 2) The child may be agitated, may yell or thrash. Many parents feel helpless at this time, but this behavior is a common response for children awakening from anesthesia. Soothing reassurance of your presence is helpful, remembering that this phase will pass within minutes.
- 3) If your child is restless, **PLEASE** keep safety in mind. **DO NOT** put your child on the floor on a blanket or allow them to be walking. We suggest holding your child, walking, or gentle rocking in an attempt to comfort the child.
- 4) You may notice a smell coming from the nose and mouth. This is the anesthetic gases from surgery and is normal as the child recovers from anesthesia.
- 5) Please do not feed or nurse your child without checking with the nurse.
- 6) Some children return from surgery flushed, sweaty and warm to the touch. This does not mean they have a fever. Temperature is monitored during and after surgery.
- 7) During surgery, most children receive IV fluids. In the recovery room, this IV is capped off, leaving the catheter in place. When children are awake, many times they focus on the IV. Please remember the IV is important. It will be used to give additional medication should the need arise. The nurse will remove the IV when adequate fluids are taken without experiencing nausea.

Our goal at the Brighton Surgery Center is to provide a positive experience for both you and your child. We hope the information provided has helped in working toward this goal. A nurse will be available to answer any questions you have regarding this material.