



Where Bright Smiles Begin

## Why we recommend crowns on baby teeth

Parents occasionally ask us why we want to place a crown on a baby tooth. It is our experience that a stainless steel crown is the most secure repair that can be placed when a tooth has a large cavity, a cavity that damages the nerve, or a cavity that has formed between the teeth. (a flossing cavity.)

Filling materials whether they be silver (amalgam) or white (composites) are fine if a cavity is small or only involves one side of the tooth. If the cavity is more extensive they simply do not have the strength to do the job.

The materials in a filling are very similar to the materials in concrete they contain:

	<u>Large particles</u>	<u>Small particles</u>
<u>Concrete</u>	Gravel	Sand
<u>White Fillings</u>	Glass particles	Resins/Plastics
<u>Silver Fillings</u>	Silver	Copper

And an adhesive to hold them together.

Concrete is very strong when it is supported on all sides with something else.



Baby teeth are very small and when we put a large filling in them it usually does not last. Either the filling breaks (like the concrete above) or the remaining tooth breaks as the large filling has weakened it. If we repair a baby tooth twice with filling it is more expensive than doing the crown in the first place and we have unnecessarily put the child through two procedures.



Amalgam Filling



Broken Tooth/Filling



Crown