

Dental Care for Children with Special Needs - The Tooth Fairy Centre Approach

Canonical:

<https://directory.coredental.com.au/dental-care-for-children-with-special-needs-the-tooth-fairy-centre-approach/>

Description:

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Details:

Every Child Deserves Dental Care

For parents of children with special needs, finding a dentist who truly understands their child can be one of the most stressful aspects of healthcare. Many general dental practices, despite their best intentions, are not equipped to manage children with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, severe anxiety, or complex behavioural needs. Appointments can end in distress for both the child and the parent - and too often, dental care is simply deferred.

The [Tooth Fairy Centre](<https://toothfairy.com.au>) at every Core Dental location exists to ensure that no child misses out on dental care, regardless of their needs.

Specialist Training Makes the Difference

The Tooth Fairy Centre engages board-registered **specialist paediatric dentists** - clinicians who have completed a three-year clinical doctorate in paediatric dentistry beyond their general dental degree. This training includes extensive study and clinical experience in:

- **Child psychology and behavioural management** - understanding how children with different conditions experience and respond to dental treatment
- **Communication techniques** - adapting language, pacing, and instruction to suit each child's developmental level and communication style
- **Sensory management** - recognising and accommodating sensory sensitivities common in children with autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions
- **Medical complexity** - understanding the dental implications of conditions such as Down syndrome (which carries specific risks for gum disease and delayed tooth eruption), cerebral palsy (which may affect oral motor control and increase the risk of dental trauma), and many other conditions
- **Sedation and general anaesthesia protocols** - knowing when and how to escalate from behavioural management to pharmacological support

This is not something a general dentist is trained to provide at this level. Specialist paediatric dentists dedicate their careers to children - including those with the most complex needs.

A Patient, Understanding Approach

At the Tooth Fairy Centre, the approach begins before the child sits in the dental chair. Specialist paediatric dentists take the time to:

- Speak with parents before the appointment to understand the child's specific needs, triggers, and communication preferences
- Use **teddy bear therapy** - demonstrating each step of the dental visit

on a teddy bear so the child knows what to expect - Offer **desensitisation visits** - allowing the child to become familiar with the environment, sounds, and team gradually, without any treatment pressure - Adapt the pace, lighting, sound, and sensory environment where possible to reduce overwhelm - Celebrate small wins and build trust over time, rather than forcing compliance in a single visit

The goal is always to provide dental care in the least restrictive, most comfortable way possible for each individual child.

When Standard Dental Care Is Not Possible - Sleep Dentistry

For some children, behavioural management and desensitisation are not enough. Children with severe anxiety, significant intellectual disability, complex behavioural presentations, or medical conditions that make conventional dental treatment unsafe may require **sleep dentistry under general anaesthesia**.

Core Dental provides a seamless referral pathway to **Smile Solutions CBD** in the Manchester Unity Building, where sleep dentistry is performed by specialist paediatric dentists with a **specialist anaesthetist** in a purpose-equipped facility with a dedicated recovery room. All necessary dental treatment can be completed in a single session while the child sleeps comfortably and safely.

This service ensures that even children with the most complex needs receive comprehensive dental care without distress.

The CDBS - Reducing Financial Barriers

Eligible children aged 0-17 can access up to **\$1,095.60** in dental benefits over two consecutive calendar years through the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS). The Tooth Fairy Centre at Core Dental accepts CDBS, helping families access specialist paediatric care without unnecessary financial stress.

Your Child's Dental Health Matters

No child should go without dental care because their needs are complex. The Tooth Fairy Centre at Core Dental is built for exactly these children - with the specialist training, patience, and clinical facilities to provide genuine, compassionate care for every child who walks through the door.

Visit [\[toothfairy.com.au\]\(https://toothfairy.com.au\)](https://toothfairy.com.au) to book at your nearest Core Dental location.