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## **Use of Papoose Boards for Children’s Dental Care**

**CHICAGO, April 27, 2012** – An April 26 segment on “Inside Edition” about children’s dental care may unnecessarily alarm parents and caregivers regarding the use of papoose boards. Papoose boards, also known as protective stabilization devices, are sometimes used to help keep children still so the child does not harm himself or the dental staff during treatment. The name papoose board is a bit of misnomer because modern versions are not boards at all—they are often comprised of soft cloth and Velcro.

Many general dentists provide treatment to children. In addition, there are more than 8,400 pediatric dentist members of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). Pediatric dentists specialize in the care of children.

The American Dental Association (ADA) notes that the AAPD [guidelines](#) state when stabilization is used, it should always be the least restrictive, but safe and effective. In addition, parental permission must be obtained prior to using a papoose board and noted in the child’s dental record along with the length of time the papoose board was used and how the child behaved during its use.

AAPD indicates that the use of a papoose board might be indicated when:

- patients require immediate diagnosis and/or limited treatment and cannot cooperate due to lack of maturity or mental or physical disability;
- the safety of the patient, dental staff, or parent would be at risk;
- movement of sedated patients needs to be reduced

The ADA encourages parents and caregivers to talk with the dentist about their approaches in children's dental care, such as the use of papoose boards.

You and your child's dentist have the same goal—safe, effective and comfortable dental treatment for your child. For more information on children's dental care, visit the American Dental Association's website at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

*Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to follow ADA media relations on Twitter @ADAmidiapr*

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#### **About the American Dental Association**

The not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing more than 157,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. The monthly *The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)* is the ADA's flagship publication and the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit the Association's website at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)