Your child has suffered an injury to one (or more) of the primary incisors. This sheet is intended to help you understand what you can expect to happen, as well as what may occur that will indicate that the tooth has taken a less favorable course.

You can expect the following reactions:

1.   **Change in color of the tooth**
     The tooth (teeth) will probably darken over a period of time, eventually turning quite dark. Usually, the color will be a charcoal gray, although it may be brown, yellow or a lighter color. This will begin to lighten again, returning to a color similar to how the tooth appeared before the injury, but not quite as snow white.

2.   **Looseness**
     The bone that supports the tooth has been expanded by the injury, which will make the tooth looser than normal. As the bone returns to the normal position, the tooth will also tighten up again.

3.   **Bleeding and swelling**
     As with any injury, the normal reaction of the injured tissues (in this case, the gums and/or lips) will bleed and/or swell. A warm pack (a washcloth is good) will help decrease the swelling and a warm salt water rinse will promote healing of any cuts.

4.   **Pain**
     Fortunately, children do not usually suffer much pain from injuries to teeth. Occasionally there will be pain if the child tries to chew with the injured tooth. As with any injury, the area should be 'babied' to avoid aggravating the injury.

You should watch for any of the following:

1.   **Change in any eating or sleeping habits**
     If your child's normal eating habits change, (in particular if he or she complains when chewing or drinking something cold) or if your child is not sleeping, another check-up is appropriate.

2.   **Gum Boils**
     This will appear on the gums in the area where the gums and lips meet. Gum boils look like a small blister or pimple on the gums.

3.   **Increased swelling, looseness or pain**
     If any of the 'expected reactions' become worse, the area should be re-examined.

IF IN DOUBT, DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE OFFICE ABOUT YOUR CHILD