



# PALMETTO ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

## **Playground Time and School Sports can be a Dental Nightmare**

***For Immediate Release-*** Fall sports practices are taking place and children are running around the playgrounds at school, and this can often times lead to injuries, especially to the teeth. Dr. Courtney Shelbourne of Palmetto Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery treats these types of injuries, usually receiving emergency calls from frantic parents, teachers and coaches. He states, “This time of year, kids are out and about. We get patients with playground injuries; skateboard injuries, football practice injuries, and when football and soccer games start the calls will increase even more.”

Injuries to the mouth are prevalent and can include cracked or chipped teeth as well as teeth detached from the socket. Most of these injuries occur from falls, being struck by an object, and collisions on the playground. States Shelbourne, “When a child or adolescent receives an injury to the mouth it often includes bleeding, pain, swelling and sensitivity. Any of these symptoms indicate a need to call an oral surgeon. We can evaluate and treat the patient. Some will need minor work and some may require an emergency dental implant.”

### ***Tips to follow if your child receives an injury to the mouth/tooth area:***

1. Call an oral surgeon—Palmetto Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery accepts emergency calls at 849-5188
2. If bleeding, place gauze and bite down
3. Popsicles-they can reduce swelling
4. Collect pieces if the tooth is cracked or shipped and take to oral surgeon
5. Place a missing tooth in a glass of milk to keep roots alive
6. Seek treatment immediately

There are tips to follow to prevent mouth injuries as well. Shelbourne advises, “Don’t let children walk or run when holding an object. Tell them to watch where they are going while playing at school on the playgrounds. Make sure your teen is wearing a mouthpiece when playing sports at practice and at games. If an injury occurs, feel free to give us a call