

## Information for Parents During Cleft Repair Surgery

**Your child will soon have surgery** to repair their cleft lip or palate. While cleft repair surgery is a routine operation, there is always a possibility that there could be a complication.



**Please tell your Smile Train doctor** if your child shows signs of a cold, cough or signs of feeling hot and sweaty. These illnesses can cause great risk to their health to and safety during and after surgery.

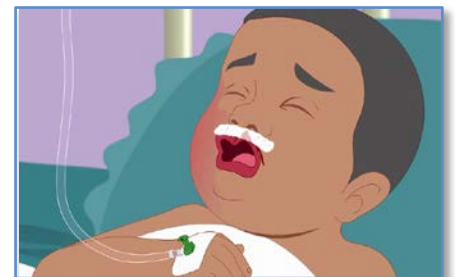
**Please make sure that your child does not have ANYTHING to eat or drink during the 6 hours before surgery (not even water or breast milk).**



**Feeding a child before surgery** can lead to life threatening complications such as choking or vomiting during surgery.



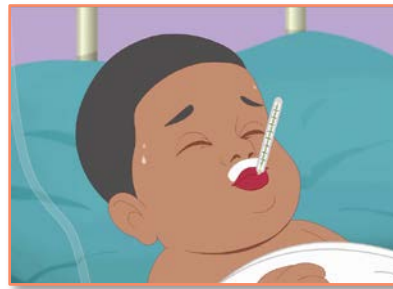
**When you meet your child after surgery** they will be recovering and may appear to be drowsy, cry more than usual, be swollen or have a little blood near their surgical wound. This is perfectly normal.



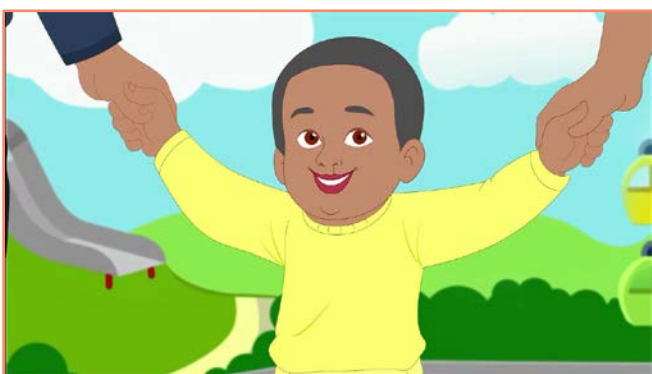
After your child's surgery, **DO NOT attempt to feed ANYTHING to your child**, not even water or breast milk, as these foods could go into their lungs and cause coughing or choking. Your doctor will instruct you as to when you can safely feed your child. **In the recovery ward, make sure that your child is lying on their side as this ensures they can breathe properly after surgery.**



**Alert your doctor/nurse if your child shows signs** of difficulty breathing, excessive bleeding from the surgery wound, feeling hot and sweaty, vomiting, extreme drowsiness and if the IV tube has come out of the arm or the IV bag has run out.



**When your child is discharged from the hospital, your doctor or nurse will give you important instructions on how to care for your child at home.** If you notice any problems after you leave the hospital please bring your child back to the hospital immediately to be evaluated.



Together, medical professionals and parents can help to ensure a safe and successful surgery. Please refer other children with cleft lip and palate to your Smile Train doctor.