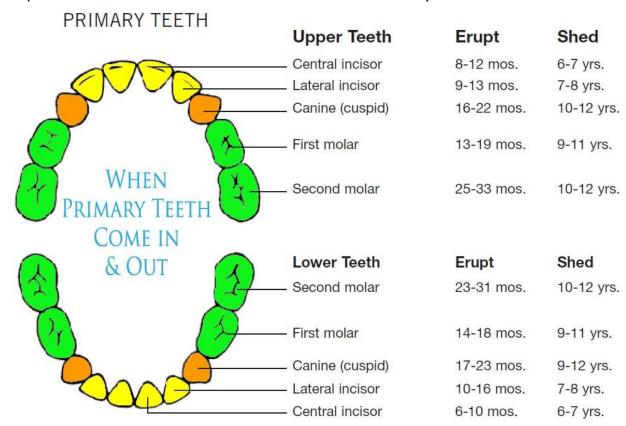
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# **Dental Care for Children**

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Dental Association all recommend infants been seen 6 months after eruption of first tooth or no later than their first birthday.



## **Importance of Recall Exams**

Cavities progress quicker in primary teeth because the outside part of the teeth (enamel) is thinner compared to permanent teeth.

## **Importance of Baby Teeth**

- -Make it possible to chew food and get proper nutrients for growth and development
- -Maintain space for permanent teeth and allow them to erupt in their correct space

### **Frequent feedings= Frequent cleanings**

Less than 6 months → Washcloth wipe Great than 6 months → Toothbrush

- Snacks should always have some cheese
- Limit the intake of 100% fruit juice to no more than 4 ounces per day until he/she can drink a full glass during a meals
- Limit sugary foods and drinks to mealtimes
- Sweets right after meals

#### **Water Sources**

Regulated fluoridated water is the best tool for developing stronger permanent and primary teeth. **Well water needs to be tested** 

### How much toothpaste?

Under age of 2 use a "smear" Fluoride- More is not always better. Too much can cause fluorosis.

### **Teething**

Fussiness, irregular sleep, slight elevated temp (around 99 deg F)
Oragel does not help most teething
Recommend **teething rings** during daytime
If needed, Infant Tylenol or Motrin, 30 minutes before nap or bedtime
Call MD if fever continues or is above 100 deg F

## Finger/Pacifier Habit

Open bites in primary dentition can self correct in permanent Pacifier is better and sucking on fingers Need to worry if continue sucking on fingers when permanent incisors erupt

**Sippy Cup**- continuous use during the day is not recommended. Only liquid that can be sipped on during the day is water. All other liquids should be consumed within a 15 minute time window.

## **Caregiver Cavities/Oral Health Status**

If caregiver has active caries, recommend: Chew xylitol gum 4-7 times per day at 3 months postnatal; Potentially use Chlorhexidine mouthrinse for two weeks prior