



Let's Talk Teeth!

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While we strive every day for quality, we don't take your trust in us for granted. We work hard to maintain our professional expertise, and work just as hard to be accessible, sensitive healthcare providers.

Thank you for selecting us and telling friends and family about the quality of our care. For our part, we simply couldn't ask for a better group of patients.



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The growing years - baby's first teeth

People usually think of a newborn baby as having no teeth. But the 20 primary teeth that will erupt during the first three years already are present at birth in the baby's jawbones. At birth, most of the crowns of the baby's teeth are almost complete, and the chewing surfaces of the permanent molars have begun forming.

Primary teeth are important in normal development-for chewing, speaking, and appearance. In addition, the primary teeth hold the space in the jaws for the permanent teeth. Both primary and permanent teeth help give the face its shape and form.

A baby's four front teeth usually erupt first, typically at about six months of age, although some children don't have their first tooth until 12-14 months. Most children have a full set of 20 primary teeth by the time they are three years old. As your child grows, the jaws also grow, making room for the permanent teeth that will begin to erupt at about age six. At the same time, the roots of the primary teeth begin to be absorbed by the tissues around them, and the permanent teeth under them begin to erupt. Typically, children have the majority of their permanent teeth by 12 to 14 years of age. The remaining four permanent molars, often called "wisdom teeth," erupt around age 21 to complete the set of 32 permanent teeth.

When teeth begin erupting, some babies may have sore or tender gums. Gently rubbing your child's gums with a clean finger or a wet gauze pad can be soothing. You can also give the baby a clean teething ring to chew on, but never dipped in sugar or syrup. If your child is still cranky and uncomfortable, give us a call!

THE DEVELOPING SMILE: TOOTH ERUPTION CHARTS

