

Infancy

Congratulations on your new baby! What an exciting time this must be for you both.

New babies are vulnerable little people. And from the first day a tooth erupts; new teeth are vulnerable, too. Fortunately, as parents, there are ways you can protect your child from cavities and insure the best possible dental health beginnings.

One avoidable threat to baby teeth is “nursing bottle mouth.” While putting down the child with a bottle before sleep is common, the effect can be early decay. Your child’s saliva works to cleanse the mouth while he’s awake. But during sleep, sugar in bedtime liquids mixes with bacteria and attacks the fragile enamel. Even mild or formula is dangerous if left on the teeth for any length of time.

Your child may find comfort in a bottle at naptime, and that’s fine. Plain water is best to protect new teeth.

Remember, we encourage you to bring you baby in for a check-up between six months and age two. In the meantime, get a head start by brushing baby’s teeth as soon as they arrive. As the spaces between teeth begin to close, it’s time to floss. Your child will grow up with positive dental expectations and the right kind of health habits