

Take Care of Your Child's Teeth



1. **Taking good care of your child's teeth is important**, especially during infancy.
2. **Babies still need good mouth care, even if they don't have teeth:**
 - ◆ **Clean your baby's mouth every day.** If no teeth are present, use your finger and a wet washcloth.
 - ◆ **Teething usually starts around 6-8 months.** Use a toothbrush to clean your child's teeth as they appear and **make sure your child's teeth are brushed everyday.** Children will need help until they are about 5 years old.
 - ◆ **Going to bed with a bottle of milk or juice can cause tooth decay** and should be avoided.
 - ◆ **Sore gums, drooling and unease are common** in babies who are teething.
 - ◆ **Babies will want to put everything in their mouth when they are teething.** Keep them safe by giving them things to bite on like teething rings or biscuits. If your child has a latex allergy or you are using latex precautions, be sure NOT to use latex teething toys.
3. **Don't give your baby teething powder or syrup** unless you talk with your health care provider first
4. **Talk with your health care provider if your baby becomes very cranky and has a fever.** There may be something else going on
5. **Take your child to the dentist every 6 months starting around the age of 2 years old.** Baby teeth decay quickly, so frequent check-ups are needed. Your DSCC Care Coordination Team may be able to help find a dentist in your area caring for children with special needs
6. You may find information on programs to assist children with special needs in obtaining dental care from the **Illinois State Dental Society:** <http://www.isds.org>.
7. Your child's baby teeth help your child to speak, make room for permanent teeth, promote jaw growth, and give your child a beautiful smile. Take good care of them.
8. You may find helpful resources at www.lookmom.com or www.ifloss.org.

We're here to help. To learn more about UIC-Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at:

dsc.uic.edu or like us on  facebook.com/dsc.uic.edu