



Frequently Asked Questions, Answered!

When should I take my child to a pediatric dentist for his/her first check-up?

To prevent dental problems, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends children see a pediatric dentist when their first tooth appears or no later than their first birthday.

Are “baby teeth” important?

Yes. Primary, or “baby teeth,” are important for many reasons. They help children speak clearly and chew naturally. Baby teeth also aid in forming a path that permanent teeth can follow when they are ready to erupt. Healthy baby teeth are needed for a healthy pleasing smile!

Are thumb sucking and pacifiers harmful for my child?

Thumb and pacifier sucking habits will generally only become problems if they continue for a very long time. Most children stop these habits on their own; but, if they are still sucking their thumbs or fingers past the age of three (3), or it's causing a bite problem, a mouth appliance may be recommended by your pediatric dentist.

When should we begin using toothpaste and how much should we use?

Starting at birth, clean your child's gums with a soft infant toothbrush or cloth and water. Parents should use a tiny smear of fluoride toothpaste to brush baby teeth twice daily as soon as they erupt with a soft, age-appropriate sized toothbrush. Once children are 3 to 6 years old, the amount of toothpaste should be increased to a pea-sized amount and parents should perform or assist your child's toothbrushing. Remember: Young children do not have the ability to brush their teeth effectively. Children should spit out and not swallow excess toothpaste after brushing.

What are sealants and how do they work?

Sealants are thin, protective coatings that shield the chewing surfaces of your child's back teeth from bacteria and food particles that could get caught in the teeth and cause cavities. The application is fast and comfortable and can effectively protect your child's teeth for many years.

How can I protect my child's teeth during sporting events?

Soft plastic mouthguards can be used to protect your child's teeth, lips, cheeks and gums from sport-related injuries. A custom-fitted mouthguard developed by a pediatric dentist will protect your child from injuries to the teeth, face and even provide protection from severe injuries to the head.

What should I do if my child falls and knocks out a permanent tooth?

Remain calm, then find the tooth. Hold it by the crown rather than the root and try to reinsert it in the socket. If that is not possible, put the tooth in a glass of milk and take your child and the glass immediately to your pediatric dentist.

How often does my child need to see the pediatric dentist?

A check-up every six months is recommended to prevent cavities and other dental problems, monitor growth and development and provide essential oral hygiene and nutritional counseling. However, our pediatric dentists can tell you when and how often your child should visit based on their personal oral healthcare needs.

