

THE CHATTER

Oral Health Advice from Delta Dental of Arkansas

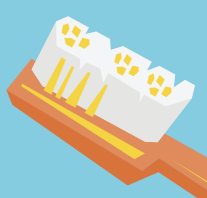
Do babies need to see the dentist?

You may find it hard to believe, but good dental health starts even before a baby gets its first tooth. We've answered some frequently asked questions to help your little one get started with the right habits.



When should I schedule my child's first dental exam?

Take your child to see a dentist within six months of the first tooth eruption, and no later than the first birthday. Missed this timeframe? It's never too late!



My baby doesn't have teeth, so we don't have to worry about brushing...right?

Before teeth come in, wipe baby's gums with a soft, clean cloth after each feeding. This helps get rid of unwanted bacteria. Once the first tooth comes in, use a small, soft-bristled toothbrush. Toothpaste isn't necessary - or recommended - for another couple of years.



Baby teeth are just going to fall out, anyway. Why worry about them?

Taking good care of baby's first teeth is an important step in the health of permanent teeth. Watch out for problems like Baby Bottle Tooth Decay and excessive pacifier use. Avoid putting your baby to bed with formula or juice and don't let pacifier use extend beyond three years.



I'm worried my child will be afraid of going to the dentist. What can I do to help?

First, stay positive! Your child will be able to tell if you are fearful about the appointment. Help make things more familiar by explaining what will happen during the exam and watching some related videos together. Practice for the big day by having your child open their mouth to show off their smile, just like they will during the exam.

Learn more ways you can help your child understand their first dental exam. Download our guide to a great first visit to the dentist!