

VISITING THE DENTIST



A project of the Illinois Chapter of
the American Academy of Pediatrics

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD VISIT THE DENTIST?

- 6 months after they get their first tooth or by their first birthday.
- Do not wait until your child is in pain or has a problem before going to the dentist.
- Keeping baby teeth healthy is important. Baby teeth keeps space open for adult teeth to come in straight and cavity free.

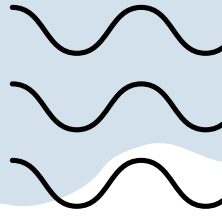
WHAT HAPPENS AT MY CHILD'S FIRST DENTAL VISIT?

- The dentist and hygienist will look at your child's teeth to see if they are healthy and make sure their teeth are coming in correctly.
- They will also look for any signs of cavities or tooth decay.
- You may get asked questions about what your child eats and drinks and how often.
- You may get asked questions about how you take care of your own teeth and your child's teeth, and if you have any problems with your teeth.
- They will share information with you on how to care for your baby's teeth to prevent cavities and prevent your child from injuring their teeth.
- They may also apply fluoride varnish to your child's teeth that will strengthen them.
- The dentist will tell you when to bring your child back, which will usually be every six months. If your child has cavities that need to be treated, they may ask you to come back sooner.



*Turn over for more
important information*

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HOW CAN I FIND A DENTIST FOR MY CHILD?

- Ask your child's doctor for the names and numbers of dentists in your area. Managed Care Members should call the phone number on the back of your membership card to receive help with finding a dentist.
- If you are enrolled in Medicaid, but not in a Managed Care Plan you should visit DentaQuest or call 1-888-286-2447 to get help finding a dentist.
- All Kids or Medicaid will pay for your child to see a dentist every six months. Take your child to the same dentist or office for each visit if you can.
- If you can't find a dentist in your area, ask your child's doctor about how to care for your child's teeth and if fluoride varnish is right for your child.

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE I TAKE MY CHILD TO THE DENTIST?

- Tell your child that you are going to see the dentist and that they will want to look at and count their teeth. Tell them what to expect and that while they might not like someone looking in their mouth, you will be there with them and the dentist is helping to keep their teeth healthy.
- Look for children's books that have fun and positive messages about what will happen at the dentist.

