Be Prepared! What to Do for Dental Emergencies

Accidents and injuries can happen to a child when you least expect it — including injuries to a child’s teeth. But knowing what to do if they’ve knocked out a tooth can make a big difference! It can even help to save a child’s “adult” or permanent tooth!

Here’s What To Do If…

A Child Knocks Out Their Tooth

Step 1 - Check them for other injuries and call 911 if necessary.

Step 2 - Be sure to lift the upper lip and also ask the child to open and close their mouth to see if teeth come together into their bite.

If they knocked out a baby tooth (or primary tooth), it does not need to be stored in milk or kept moist but should be brought to the dentist if possible. Do not try to put a baby tooth back in place in their mouth.

A Child Knocks Out a Permanent Tooth

Step 1 - Put on medical gloves if available

Step 2 - Position the child’s head so that the bleeding does not cause them to choke

Step 3 - Try to find the tooth.

Do not touch the roots of the tooth if they are exposed.

Step 4 - If the tooth is dirty, rinse it with water gently. Do not scrub the tooth or use any cleaners on it.

Step 5 - If possible, and if the child is 12 years and older, gently place the tooth back into the child’s mouth from where it fell out (the socket), in the right position.

Step 6 - Place gauze or a small cloth over the tooth and ask the child to gently bite down to keep the tooth in place until they get to a dentist or emergency room.

If you cannot get the tooth back in place safely, then keep it moist by placing it in milk or a product for saving knocked out teeth. If using a special product, be sure it as the American Dental Association (ADA) Seal of Acceptance. You can also wrap the tooth in a wet cloth if you do not have something to place it in.

Step 7 - Try to control any bleeding.

Step 8 - Take the child to the dentist office right away! Within one hour is best!
Here’s What To Do If…

![Icon](image)

**A Child Cracks Their Tooth**

Help them rinse their mouth with warm water and use a cold compress on their face to keep the swelling down. Take the child to the dentist’s office as soon as you can.

![Icon](image)

**A Child Has a Toothache**

Help them rinse their mouth with warm water. Use dental floss to gently remove any food that may be caught in between their teeth. If the pain continues, call the child’s dentist.

⚠️ *You should not put aspirin on your child’s tooth or gums; doing this can burn their gum tissue.*

![Icon](image)

**A Child Has an Object Stuck in Their Teeth**

You can try to gently remove what is stuck with dental floss and then take them to the dentist or emergency room right away. Do not use anything sharp or a pointed instrument to remove the object.

---

**If Your Child Needs Anesthesia or Sedation**

Depending on the injury, your child may need anesthesia or sedation for safe dental work. To learn more, visit [bit.ly/ChildDentalTreatment](http://bit.ly/ChildDentalTreatment) or scan the QR code!