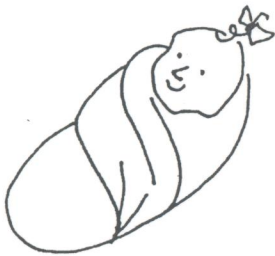


Significant findings include:

- Dental caries (tooth decay) is the single most common chronic childhood disease, 5 times more common than asthma.
- More than 51 million school hours are lost in the U.S. each year to dental-related illness.
- Children cannot concentrate on schoolwork nor can adult workers pay attention to job duties if they are in pain from dental disease.
- Employed adults in the U.S. lose more than 164 million hours of work each year because of dental disease or dental visits.

Oral Health is Linked to Overall Health



Research shows a possible relationship between the bacteria that cause dental disease and chronic diseases/acute illness. For example, scientists have noted a link between periodontal (gum) disease and pre-term, low birthweight (PTLB) infants. Quite possibly, the bacteria active in periodontal disease and the body's reaction to that infection trigger the release of the hormones responsible for labor.

Furthermore, oral disease appears to impact:

- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Stroke
- Pneumonia



Dental Basics

Formation and Function

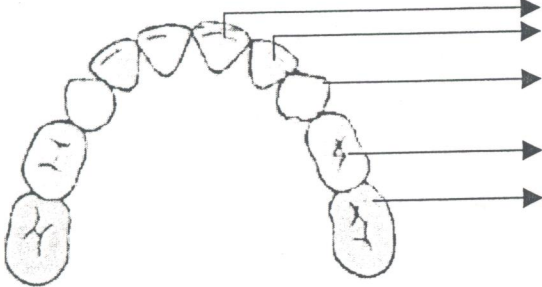
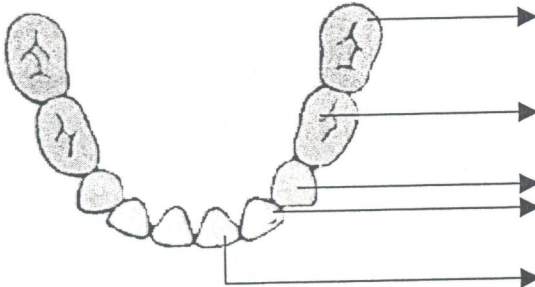
Development of the mouth begins when the human embryo is about three weeks old, perhaps before the woman even knows she is pregnant. The first signs of teeth in the embryo appear at six weeks of the pregnancy. At this time, the embryo's tooth buds have begun to form. These buds start to mineralize or harden between weeks 9 and 12 of the pregnancy.



- ☐ Primary teeth
- ☐ Permanent teeth

Primary ("baby") teeth usually start erupting between six and ten months of age. Central incisors (the front middle teeth) usually come in first. The next teeth appear on either side of the central incisors and progress toward the back of the mouth, to the second molars. Most of the primary/baby teeth should be present by the child's third birthday. A complete set will have 20 baby teeth.



Primary Teeth		Upper Teeth	Erupt	Shed
	Central Incisor	Central Incisor	8-12 mos.	6-7 yrs.
	Lateral Incisor	Lateral Incisor	9-13 mos.	7-8 yrs.
	Canine (cuspid)	Canine (cuspid)	16-22 mos.	10-12 yrs.
	First molar	First molar	13-19 mos.	9-11 yrs.
	Second molar	Second molar	25-33 mos.	10-12 yrs.
		Lower Teeth		
	Second molar	Second molar	23-31 mos.	10-12 yrs.
	First molar	First molar	14-18 mos.	9-11 yrs.
	Canine (cuspid)	Canine (cuspid)	17-23 mos.	9-12 yrs.
	Lateral Incisor	Lateral Incisor	10-16 mos.	7-8 yrs.
	Central Incisor	Central Incisor	6-10 mos.	6-7 yrs.

Although primary/baby teeth are eventually lost, they play an important role in a child's normal growth and development:

Primary Teeth -

Crucial for:

- Place holding
- Speech
- Eating
- Face shape
- Appearance
- Self-esteem

- They are crucial to speech development, nutrition, formation of face shape, appearance and self-esteem.
- They serve as placeholders for permanent ("adult") teeth, as they guide the new teeth into proper position.
- Early tooth loss can lead to shifting of teeth, resulting in crowding.



Primary/baby teeth begin to fall out at about age six years and are replaced by the permanent teeth. At approximately the same time, the first permanent molars erupt behind the last primary molar. A complete set of permanent teeth will have 32 teeth. All permanent teeth are usually in place by age 21 years but continue developing their roots until a person's late 20s. Teeth are meant to last a lifetime. Like the primary teeth, the permanent teeth are vital for speech, nutrition, appearance and self-esteem.

Permanent Teeth

