



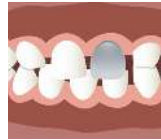
Common Dental Issues In Children

At Children’s Dental Health, our team is focused on prevention, which means establishing healthy habits as early as possible to help avoid the need for complex intervention. It’s important that we partner with the pediatric physician community to ensure we are seeing children before they have significant oral health problems or severe tooth decay. Below are common dental issues that parents may ask about or children may present with at their pediatrician’s office.

What conditions are most common, and do they require attention from a pediatric dentist?



ECTOPIC LOWER PERMANENT INCISORS: The primary incisors will usually fall out naturally, but may have to be removed if there is no mobility. Refer the patient to a pediatric dentist to be evaluated.



INTRA-PULPAL HEMORRHAGE: This is the result of trauma to an incisor. These teeth are generally asymptomatic and do not require treatment unless there are symptoms of an infection, like a draining fistula.



ARRESTED TOOTH DECAY: These carious lesions are black in color and have become arrested. They are usually asymptomatic, but patients should be referred to a dentist, as they still require treatment.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES: This can be the result of poor habits, including the continued use of a “sippy” cup or prolonged bottle use. Refer patients to a pediatric dentist as soon as possible.



What is the impact of pacifiers or thumb sucking?

Prolonged pacifier use or thumb sucking can change the entire shape of a child’s mouth, affect the airway, cause difficulty chewing, and result in speech articulation issues. Please refer children to a dentist if they still have these habits past the age of three.

When should children go to the dentist for the first check-up?

Per AAPD guidelines, children should see a pediatric dentist when the first tooth appears, or no later than their first birthday.



When should teeth start coming in or falling out?

The average age for a baby to get his/her first tooth is around six months. If a baby’s first tooth hasn’t come in by 18 months, parents should schedule an appointment with a pediatric dentist.

Children will start losing their baby, or primary, teeth around the age of six, and their first permanent teeth will start to erupt at the same time. By the age of 12, most adolescents have lost all of their primary teeth.

Upper	1. 8-12 months	2. 9-13 months	3. 16-22 months	4. 13-19 months	5. 25-33 months
Lower	1. 6-10 months	2. 10-16 months	3. 17-23 months	4. 14-18 months	5. 23-31 months

What are the implications of bad dental habits in children?

Poor childhood oral health can affect speech development, be painful, cause infection, or lead to cosmetic issues. In turn, those conditions can impact a child’s social development by leading to poor self esteem and causing children to miss school and fall behind in their education. Poor oral health in children can also affect how adult teeth form, which may require more invasive restoration work, or even surgery, as children get older.