



# Why early childhood dental visits are important

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children and can have a serious impact on a child's health and quality of life. Introduce your child early to good dental health for a healthy mouth and a healthy life ahead.

## Your child should have their teeth checked by a dentist before the age of 2.

Early check up help prevent cavities and tooth decay. If left untreated tooth decay can lead to serious conditions such as:

- Sepsis or Abscesses
- Emergency visits to hospitals
- Hospitalisations
- Difficulty sleeping
- Difficulty eating, affecting growth and development
- Speech development problems
- Other medical conditions
- Trouble concentrating
- Dental decay in their adult teeth
- Crowded mouth

Children with healthy teeth learn to speak clearly and smile with confidence.

A check-up at an early age, when little or no treatment is necessary, will give your child a tear-free start to dental visits.

An early visit will enable:

- your child to become familiar with the 'sights, sounds and smells' of the dental environment in a positive way.
- dental staff to give advice and instruction on tooth-brushing and on good eating habits.

## Regular dental visits will ensure your child's continuing dental health and happiness.

Every child has different dental needs and risk which determine how often they should have a check up.

Ask your dentist about how often your child needs a check up.

## Where can I take my child for a dental check-up?

You can take your child:

- to your private dentist of your choice or
- to your local public dental clinic.

**All children are eligible for free dental care in your local public dental clinic**  
Find your nearest public dental clinic at: [www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/)