



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 when their first tooth becomes visible or they reach 12 months old - whichever comes first.

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/**