

# Mouth Care for the Young Child



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **When should my child start to brush?**

You should start to clean your infant's mouth soon after birth. Using an infant gum massager or a clean, damp washcloth, gently wipe the gums. This will remove bacteria, ease teething discomfort and prepare your child for future brushing.

### **How can I brush my child's teeth?**

While your child is still very young, have them lie comfortably in your lap. Start to use a soft baby toothbrush as soon as teeth appear. It can be a close time for you and your child.

### **When do baby teeth start to grow?**

Primary teeth start to erupt *around* 6 months of age. All 20 baby teeth should be erupted between the second and third birthday. During the teething process, your child may be irritable, and drool excessively. Because of an increase of fluids at this time your child may develop an ear infection. Fever and diarrhea are not part of the teething process. Any time your child develops a fever call your doctor.

### **Do I need to use toothpaste?**

You can use water or a non-fluoridated toothpaste until your child learns how to spit. Only use a very small amount of toothpaste-about the size of a green pea.

### **My child likes to brush by himself.**

Children need help to brush at least once a day until they are about 8 or 9 years old. Around the age of 2 your child will want to copy you and should be encouraged to try brushing, however, it is important for you to finish the job.

### **When should I take my child to the dentist?**

You should visit the dentist between the age of 2 and 3.  
You may call the WRHA clinic: Machray School Clinic 940-2090