

Child Care ~ Children's Dental Care ~ Community Health Programs

157 Litchfield Street in Torrington, CT 06790  
(p)860-489-1328 (f)860-489-4761 (w)brookermemorial.org

## DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES IN DENTISTRY

Did You Know? \* Tooth decay is 5 times more common than asthma

\* Is the most common chronic childhood disease that will not correct without treatment.

### Developmental Stage

**Pre-natal**: 2<sup>nd</sup> month of pregnancy

Teeth begin to develop. Mother's decay-causing bacteria goes into unborn child & can Cause pre-maturity

### What You Can Do

Get adequate amounts of vitamins , C,D protein, calcium and phosphorous.

Keep maternal teeth decay free

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**Six to 12 Months**: front 4 teeth emerge gums, should not have fever.

Gently rub baby's gum with clean causing sore finger or wet gauze to sooth; give clean teething ring; call dentist if still cranky or fever is present, Once teeth emerge, wipe teeth clean after feeding.

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**Six Months after First Tooth;**

**Up to One Year of Age**

**Schedule first Dental Visit!**

Assess developing tooth decay & Need for increase in fluoride

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**12 months**: Molars appear (back teeth)

Begin to brush baby's teeth gently with soft tooth brush & water. After all foods and drinks.

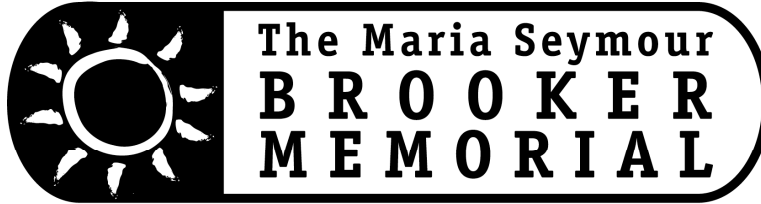
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**1 to 3 Years**: 20 teeth emerge

Continue to brush teeth, adding pea-size amount of fluoride toothpaste when child can spit and not swallow it.

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**3-12: Independent brushing and Flossing; Good Nutrition**

**Dental Appointments:** Every 6 months

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**12 to 14 years**: 28 permanent Teeth erupt; Wisdom teeth at 21



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### **ARE "BABY TEETH" REALLY IMPORTANT?**

Baby teeth or primary teeth serve to hold a spot open for permanent teeth and help form the child's jaw. If baby teeth fall out due to decay or are knocked out prematurely, contact your dentist.

### **IS THUMB-SUCKING REALLY A PROBLEM FOR MY CHILD'S TOOTH DEVELOPMENT?**

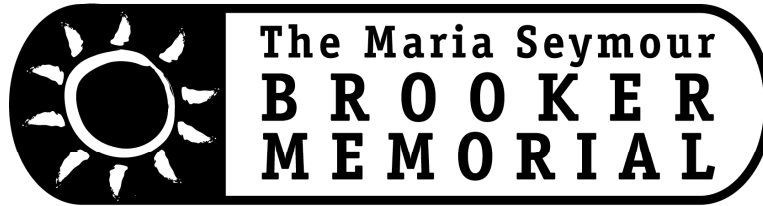
Thumb sucking beyond emergence of permanent teeth can move teeth out of alignment. Most children stop sucking their thumbs between 2 and 4 years of age. To help them end this habit: Keep in mind children often suck their thumbs when feeling insecure. Provide emotional support and do not scold them for sucking their thumb. Reward them when not sucking.

**WHAT IF MY CHILD LOSES A TOOTH?** If baby teeth fall out due to decay or are knocked out prematurely, contact your dentist. **With permanent teeth, handling emergencies can be the difference between saving or losing a tooth permanently:**

- 1. For a knocked-out tooth:** Keep tooth moist, rinse in water, do not remove any tissue attached. If possible gently re-insert and hold in socket. If cannot replace in socket, hold in mouth, preserve in milk, or in water with a pinch of salt. See dentist immediately!
- 2. For cracked or broken tooth:** Rinse mouth with warm water and put cold compresses on face to reduce swelling. Bring fragment if possible, and see dentist immediately.
- 3. Possible broken jaw:** Apply ice and go to Emergency Room immediately.
- 4. Tooth ache:** Rinse with warm water and floss to remove any potential particles. Do not use aspirin on tooth. Take to dentist.
- 5. Bitten tongue or lip:** Clean area and apply ice until bleeding stops. If doesn't stop in short time span, take to emergency room.

### **OTHER SERIOUS DENTAL PROBLEMS:**

**Bleeding gums:** This is a sign of periodontal disease. If not treated, this can cause serious dental problems or infection.



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**Abscesses:** Pain and swelling can indicate an abscess which can create a dangerous situation for your child. Do not wait to call the dentist or your family doctor.