Why baby teeth are important:

• Eating
• Talking
• Saving space for the permanent teeth
• Smiling

Protect Your Baby’s Smile
(6-18 months old)

5 Ways to a Beautiful Smile

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A Global Oral Health Initiative.

The American Public Health Association recommends regular prenatal checkups.
Ways to Protect Baby’s Smile (6-18 months)

1. Clean Baby’s Teeth Daily

When the baby teeth begin to erupt at about 6 months, you should clean baby’s teeth every day with a soft, damp baby toothbrush. The best position will probably be for you to sit down and hold baby in your arms. You can also sit on the floor and lay baby’s head in your lap. Check baby’s teeth for cavities. Lift baby’s lip and look at the teeth. If you see brown spots or chalky white spots, call your dentist.

2. Begin Using a Sippee Cup

As soon as baby begins reaching for your jewelry and holding toys, it is time to introduce the sippee cup. It may be messy at first, but keep at it. Baby will love learning this new skill!

3. Avoid Letting Baby Walk Around with a Bottle

Prolonged exposure to the bottle can lead to a serious condition known as “Early Childhood Cavities.”

4. Clean Baby’s Teeth Daily

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5. Visit the Dentist

Once baby reaches his/her first birthday, it’s time to take baby for the first visit to the dentist.

When baby is 6-12 months old:

- Begin Using a Sippee Cup

When baby is 12 months old:

- Wean Baby from the Bottle

Visit the Dentist