

ERUPTION PATTERNS OF TEETH

Teeth begin forming in children very early in life, as early as the first month of the second trimester of pregnancy. That is why it is so important for pregnant women to follow a proper diet. It is not only to have a healthy baby, but to ensure the proper formation of the teeth. When the hard tissue (the future enamel) of the tooth is forming, minerals and nutrients are taken up by the teeth and incorporated into the structure of the enamel. Good nutrition makes the teeth stronger. Poor nutrition can interfere with proper enamel formation. Eat wisely. Consult your physician about needed vitamin supplements and before taking any medications.

This reference will help you know when baby teeth, also called *deciduous teeth*, are due to come in and eventually fall out, as the permanent teeth come in. Girls' teeth usually come in before boys' teeth. There is a 6 to 8 month leeway that is considered a normal variation on either side of the age the teeth come into the mouth. Some children might get teeth even earlier or later than that. It depends on their growth patterns. We hope to see teeth come in later, rather than earlier. If the teeth come in later, there is a good chance the mouth will be bigger so the teeth have the necessary room to come in straight. The older a child is when he gets a tooth, the more hand skill he will have for brushing and flossing the tooth to keep it clean and disease-free.

The normal child dentition will have 20 baby teeth. Adults typically have 32 teeth, although there is evidence that many adults do not have tooth buds for the four wisdom teeth.

Primary Teeth

Primary teeth start forming at 4 to 6 months in utero, the second trimester of pregnancy. After the baby is born, the teeth continue to grow and erupt into the mouth.

lower central incisors	6 months
lower lateral incisors	7 months
upper central incisors	7.5 months
upper lateral incisors	9 months
lower canines and eyeteeth	16 months
lower second molars	20 months
upper second molars	24 months

Permanent Teeth

The enamel of the permanent teeth actual begins forming at 3 to 4 months of age. If your water is not fluoridated, make sure your baby receives the necessary fluoride supplements. Permanent teeth come in under the baby teeth. Pressure from the upward movement of the permanent tooth causes a resorption of the root of the baby tooth. When the root disappears, the tooth gets loose and eventually falls out. If the permanent tooth does not come in directly under the baby tooth, the baby tooth root will not resorb and not loosen. The second tooth will come in either in front of or behind the baby tooth. This is common. When it happens, see the dentist to determine whether the baby tooth should be removed to permit the proper positioning of the permanent tooth. We have found females will develop teeth/erupt teeth upwards of 1 – 2 years earlier than males.

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
lower central incisors	6 – 7 years	4 – 6 years
lower first molar	6 – 7 years	4 – 6 years
upper first molar	6 – 7 years	4 – 6 years
upper central incisors	7 – 8 years	5 – 7 years
lower lateral incisors	7 – 8 years	5 – 7 years
upper lateral incisors	8 – 9 years	6 – 7 years
lower canines	9 – 10 years	7 – 8 years
upper first premolars	10 – 11 years	7 – 9 years
lower first premolars	10 – 12 years	7 – 10 years
upper canines	11 – 12 years	7 – 10 years
lower second premolars	11 – 12 years	9 – 11 years
lower second molar	11 – 13 years	9 – 11 years
upper second molar	12 – 13 years	9 – 13 years
wisdom teeth	17 – 22 years	15 – 17 years

Be sure to remember the sealants for the molars and premolars!

If you have any questions about the formation of teeth, please feel free to ask us.