

## Ask The Smile Expert...

This year will mark the 27th year I have been active in the practice of dentistry. While I am amazed at how fast the time has passed, I am more amazed with dramatic changes in dentistry. Years ago I could have never imagined the advances in technology that have impacted the way I treat teeth, care for my patients and help them understand how dental health affects their overall well-being and could even extend their life. Over the next few months, we will be using this column to answer questions and address concerns that we hear daily from our patients.



### A Common question we receive is:

***Why is there such a variety of policies about what age to bring your child to the dentist for their first visit?***

In the past, we recommended children begin their first visit between the ages of 2½-3 for a cleaning, but now the American Academy of Pediatric Dentist wants us to encourage parents to bring their child to the dentist during their first year of life for an appointment aimed at parent education. Once a month we hold a parent education class at our office where topics include how, when and why to clean your child's mouth, as well as education on diet, decay, fluoride sources, sippy cup and bottle feeding. Dental decay is 5 times more prevalent than asthma. By age 2, 10% of children have decay so we feel it is critical to reach parents early. The class is free however we do require that you register in advance due

to limited space and availability. For those that prefer a scheduled individual appointment, there is a nominal fee. Call us for more details or to register for a class

*Please feel free to submit a question for **The Smile Expert** thru our website at [www.drpatricialondon.com](http://www.drpatricialondon.com). We look forward to providing you with helpful information to improve your quality of life and your understanding of dentistry.*

*The Smile Experts*  
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