Dental Care for Babies

- Babies have a higher risk for decay if their teeth are in contact with sugary liquids often or for long periods of time. These liquids include fruit juice, soda and other sweetened liquids. Never put your baby to bed with a bottle or use a bottle as a pacifier.
- If your child uses a pacifier, don’t dip in sugar or honey, or put it in your mouth before giving it to your child. It’s important to know that the cavity-causing bacteria in your mouth can be passed to your baby.
- Wipe the baby’s gums with a wet gauze pad or washcloth after feeding.
- Begin brushing your child’s teeth with a child-sized toothbrush and water as soon as the first tooth appears.
- Sippy cups or ‘no-spill’ cups should only be used until a child’s first birthday. After that, try to get your child to drink from a small open cup.
- Take your baby to the dentist before his or her first birthday. This helps our dental team get to know your child’s and your family’s specific needs, so we can provide the best care.
- During this visit, we will demonstrate how to care for your baby’s teeth and gums, and give you more information on what to expect as your baby grows. As baby teeth erupt, your child may become fussy, sleepless, or irritable. One way to comfort your baby is to gently massage the gums with a clean finger, a small cool spoon, a chilled teething ring or a clean, wet washcloth.
- The FDA recommends that parents and caregivers not use benzocaine products for teething children younger than 2 years, except under the advice and supervision of a health care professional.
- If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to call our office at (217) 352-4646.