

## **“Hey Doc, when should I expect my baby’s teeth to come into his/her mouth? (Part 1)”**

Generally speaking, there are 20 baby (also called primary) teeth. During teething, baby teeth usually come in pairs. The following is a guide for the eruption time of the different baby teeth:

**3 months** - Teething can start at any time between 3 to 12 months

**6 months** - The lower central incisors(bottom front teeth)

**8 months** - The upper central incisors(upper front teeth)

**10 months** - The upper and lower lateral incisors(teeth beside the middle teeth)

**14 months** - The first molars(upper and lower baby molars usually erupt around the same time)

**18 months** - The canines (the upper and lower pointed teeth)

**24 months** - The second molars(the furthest back baby teeth)

Looking after the baby teeth is very important for a child’s oral health. Even though baby teeth are temporary, they maintain the spaces for their subsequent adult teeth. They also help guide the adult teeth to come in properly. Keeping the baby teeth decay free is essential because decay can lead to pain/swelling/infection/ pain suffering for a child. Also disease free baby teeth are important for a child to speak and eat properly.

**In the next article, I shall discuss some of the common symptoms of teething.**

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