



# HEALTHY TEETH HEALTHY KIDS

## Dental Screening for Children 18-36 Months



**This checklist is designed to help you keep track of your child's dental health and development.**

- | Yes                      | No                       |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. If your child is between <b>18-24 months</b> , does he/she have at least 12 teeth? |
|                          |                          | OR  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If your child is between <b>25-36 months</b> , does he/she have at least 16 teeth?    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Are your child's teeth cleaned daily by an adult?                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Are your child's teeth white and shiny   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Has your child been seen by a dentist or a dental hygienist?                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Does your child drink mostly from a cup without a lid?                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Does your child sleep without a bottle?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Does your child have set times during the day for meals and snacks?                |

### Helpful Dental Health Tips



By **18 months**, most children have 12-16 teeth, and by **36 months**, they have 18-20 teeth. The first teeth to come in are the front teeth, followed by the teeth in the back.

**Clean your child's teeth daily** using a very small soft brush with plain water or a tiny amount of non-fluoride toothpaste (about the size of a pea). The most important time to clean your child's teeth is before going to sleep at night.

Even toddlers can get tooth decay. You should **check your child's teeth** at least once a month. Lift the upper lip to see the teeth right up to the gum line. If they have chalky-white or brown spots anywhere, or are chipped or broken, take your child to a dentist.

Children should have their teeth checked by a dentist or a dental hygienist **by their first birthday** so that any problems are found early.

By **18 months**, children should be breastfeeding and/or drinking from a cup without a lid. If still using a bottle or sippy cup, they should be encouraged to stop using both the bottle and the sippy cup. **Don't let your child constantly sip from a bottle or sippy cup** filled with milk, formula, juice, pop, kool-aid or sugar water.

If your child must have a bottle to fall asleep, fill it with plain water. If you are breastfeeding, take your child off the breast when he/she is done actively feeding.

Your child should have **5-6 set meal and snack times** during the day. Frequent snacking helps cause cavities, especially if foods are sticky and sweet. Some examples of healthy snack choices are cheese, whole grain crackers, yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables. For snack time drinks, offer plain water, milk or unsweetened fruit or vegetable juice. When your child is thirsty at other times, offer plain water.

**If you answered "no" to three or more questions, please talk to your family's dental care provider about your child's dental development.**

**If you do not have a family dental care provider, please contact your local public health unit.**

**In York Region, call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 • TTY 1-866-252-9933**

Parents should always talk to their dental care professional if they have questions or concerns about their child's dental development or well-being.

This paediatric screening instrument is adapted from the original developed by the Community Dental Health Services Research Unit, one of the Ontario Government's Health Systems Linked Research Units