



CENTRAL PARK WEST PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Welcome to our wonderful family of patients! Thank you for selecting us as your personal dental care team for your child. We will strive to make your relationship with us a pleasant and rewarding one.

A firm foundation is needed upon which we can base recommendations for your child's dental health. Therefore, we will complete a thorough dental examination during the initial appointment. We will evaluate your child's dental growth and development as well.

Preventative dentistry is the most important service we have to offer. We will show you how to care for your child's teeth and gums so that they can maintain a beautiful smile. Preventative examinations on a regularly scheduled basis will give your child the maximum opportunity for a long-term dental health.

Good communication is essential to forming a satisfactory relationship. If you ever have a concern about treatment, fee, or service, please feel free to discuss it immediately and openly with any of us. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and want to do everything we can to make your visit a pleasant experience.

Creating and maintaining your child's oral health is our primary goal. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to pursue this goal with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Peracchia, DDS
Dr. Aura Caldera, DDS

EXCELLENT ORAL HEALTH BEGINS EARLY

There is nothing more beautiful than a child's smile. But that beautiful smile needs your help. Good oral health is not an accident. If you take action now, you can keep your child's teeth healthy today and for years to come.

Infants are born with 20 primary teeth (located in the jawbone) that will erupt in the next two-and-a-half years. At birth, primary teeth crowns are almost complete and permanent molar surfaces are forming, with the front four teeth usually erupting as early as six months after birth.

After every feeding, the American Dental Association (ADA) recommends, wiping your baby's gums and teeth with a damp washcloth or gauze pad to remove plaque. By doing this, parents establish at an early age the importance of dental hygiene and the feeling of having clean teeth and gums.

The enamel on baby teeth is not as tough as on adult teeth, therefore young children need extra care to avoid decay. Oral care should begin even before teeth erupt to ensure a pattern of good dental habits, with flossing introduced as soon as possible. A child's brushing should be supervised till he or she reaches six years of age. In addition, avoiding extended exposure to sugary liquids is highly recommended. Bi-annual, regular dental checkups will keep decay in check.

"Your Child's Teeth," American Dental Association, 1992.

If you have any questions about your child's oral health, please ask any one of our team members. We are here to provide the best oral health care possible for your child.

DR. ROBERT PERACCHIA

DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

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Pediatric Dentistry and
West Side Orthodontics LLC

WELCOME

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THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR VISITS TO THE DENTIST

To begin a lifetime of good oral health, every child should begin to receive oral health risk assessments by six months of age. Regular visits to a pediatric dental practice allow your child to receive appropriate routine and preventive care. Here's is what we provide to our pediatric patients and their parents:

- o An accurate risk assessment for oral diseases and conditions
- o An individualized preventive dental health program based on risk assessment
- o Anticipatory guidance about growth and development issues (e.g., tooth eruption, thumb, finger, or pacifier habits; feeding practices)
- o A plan for emergency dental trauma
- o Information about proper care of the child's teeth and soft tissues
- o Information about proper nutrition
- o Comprehensive dental care in accordance with accepted guidelines and periodicity schedules for pediatric dental health
- o Referrals to other dental specialists when care cannot be provided directly within our practice

ORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG CHILDREN

Baby Bottle Tooth Decay

This condition can occur when an infant begins to continuously nurse from a bottle of milk, formula, sugar water or fruit juice during naps or bedtime. These liquids tend to pool around teeth while the child is sleeping, making teeth susceptible to being attacked by acids, which can result in tooth decay.

Thumbsucking

Sucking is one of a baby's natural reflexes that make a child feel secure and happy. According to the ADA, thumbsucking usually decreases after the age of two. In some cases, if a child continues vigorous and prolonged thumbsucking past the age of four, it can create problems with normal dental development.

Teething

Teething causes most children to experience sore and tender gums, which can make them irritable. Teething usually begins at six months of age. The ADA recommends gently rubbing your baby's gums with a clean finger; a clean teething ring; a small, cool spoon; or a wet gauze pad, which can be soothing. If none of these methods ease their child's discomfort, the ADA suggests consulting your physician or dentist.

MAKE CARE OF PRIMARY TEETH A PRIORITY

Although baby (or primary) teeth eventually fall out, they are susceptible to decay and should be treated if decay does occur. An exam by a pediatric dentist by the age of one will reassure parents about the condition of their child's teeth and allow for any problems to be corrected.

Decay-causing bacteria does not adhere to gums. It will, however, adhere to the 20 primary teeth a child will have by age three. Untreated decay will intensify, and the tooth may ultimately require more complex treatment or extraction. This is disturbing as the permanent teeth use the baby teeth as a guide for position.

Proper speech development is another reason for caring for and retaining primary teeth, and children with missing or decayed teeth may not be able to eat properly. Pain or discomfort while chewing may affect a child's nutritional and caloric intake. Facial appearance, naturally, will also be affected by tooth loss, and unsightly teeth may embarrass children during their sensitive years.