



INFANT ORAL HEALTH FOR THE SINGLE HOME VISIT

This information is designed to introduce oral health into the conversation when there will be only a single home visit to the newborn. For more comprehensive oral health information, refer to Teeth for Tots Resource Guide from the KS Head Start Association.

PREPARING FOR THE HOME VISIT

- Read Home Visitor Background Knowledge on reverse side
- Gather materials and supplies

Ask

- What concerns do you have about your baby's mouth and future teeth?
- When you think about your baby's teeth and smile, what would you like for him/her?

Discuss

- Discuss any oral health topics brought up in response to the question. (Use Teeth for Tots® as a resource, as needed)
- Using the information under Home Visitor Background Knowledge, have a conversation with parent to determine what areas of oral health they view as valuable for their child.
- Show video on [How to Clean a Baby's Gums](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYZx_jgeHyU). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYZx_jgeHyU

Practice

- Bring a clean baby washcloth to give parent.
- After viewing video, help parent practice wiping gums and looking at their baby's mouth.

Share

- Leave behind handout on Raising Cavity Free Kids-Your Baby's First Year. Circle any items you want to highlight.

HOME VISITOR BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

OUTCOME

Families understand the importance of primary teeth and instill positive oral habits for children in early childhood

Parents often think that if their baby's first teeth decay, it doesn't matter because they will get a second set of teeth. By identifying which of the following things are most important to individual parents, you can help them understand the importance in adopting habits that will keep their baby cavity-free.

Function

- ✓ Help child speak properly forming sounds and words as he or she learns to talk
- ✓ Help child chew healthy, age-appropriate foods
- ✓ Hold the space until the adult tooth is ready to come in, keeping teeth straight
- ✓ Guide proper jaw and facial muscle development

Health

- ✓ Cavities in baby teeth can spread to other teeth, including adult teeth
- ✓ Untreated baby teeth can lead to other serious illnesses
- ✓ Pain in baby teeth keep children from getting enough sleep or eating the right foods
- ✓ Pain and lack of sleep can cause problems with baby's development

Social

- ✓ Pain or decay in baby teeth keeps children from smiling, talking, or making friends
- ✓ A healthy mouth gives a child self confidence

SUPPLIES FOR HOME VISIT

Video link- https://youtu.be/bYZx_jgeHyU

Baby Washcloth/Sterile Gauze

Handout- Raising Cavity Free Kids- Your Baby's First Year (info@ohks.org)



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