



My Child's First Dental Visit

Your child's first dental visit is a way to meet the dental team in a non-threatening and friendly way. Ideally take your child for a dental check-up before they turn 2 years of age, especially if you think there may be a problem.

Why take my child for an early visit?

- It will help your child become familiar with the 'sights, smells and sounds' of the clinic
- To check for tooth decay and any other dental conditions. It is best to find out about any problems early
- Find out the best ways to help your child have a healthy mouth.

How can I prepare my child?

- Take time to play 'dentist' at home by counting teeth or reading books.
- Take your child with you when you or older siblings go for a dental check-up.
- Be positive about the appointment and don't pass on any fears you may have.
- Avoid words that may frighten your child, such as 'hurt' or 'needle'. The dental staff have special words to explain these to your child.
- Make the appointment when child is well rested and as an accepted part of a regular routine, not a 'special event'.
- Come early to an appointment to become familiar with the new surroundings and complete any forms.

What will happen at the first visit?

- With your help the dental staff can build trust and confidence in your child and let them have a positive dental experience.
- Do not worry if your child is not keen to have a dental check, the dental staff will have ways to make your child feel comfortable. For example, the first check-up may be done with your child sitting on your knee.
- It's necessary for the dental staff to capture your child's complete attention. Please don't think that you are being ignored if they talk to your child instead of you.



Where can I take my child for a dental check-up?

- Your child's health professional can also perform a dental assessment called 'Lift the Lip' on your child at 12 months, 2 years of age and as part of their school entry health assessment and will refer your child if there is a concern.
- Children aged 4 years and under may attend any government adult dental clinic for dental care if the parent is eligible (holds a Health Care or Pension Card). Those in country locations, without access to a government clinic, may access subsidised general and emergency treatment through participating private dentists using the Country Patients Dental Subsidy Scheme (CPDSS). If your child is not eligible, your child should visit your family dentist.
- Children aged 5-16 years or up to completion of year 11, can attend the School Dental Service for free general dental care.
- Contact Dental Health Services on (08) 9313 0555 or visit www.dental.wa.gov.au for more information.

Would you like more information or to provide feedback?

This document can be made available in alternative formats such as braille, audio tape or electronically on request.



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