

# Early Childhood Dental Issues



## Baby Bottle Tooth Decay

The most common causes are:

- Frequent, prolonged exposure to sugary drinks
- Baby is put to sleep with a bottle
- Bottle is used in place of a pacifier
- Insufficient amount of fluoride in diet



## Thumb Sucking

A natural behavior in infants and young children. In some cases it can have negative effects:

- Disrupting proper growth of the mouth
- Misalignment of the teeth
- Changes in the roof of the mouth

What to look out for:

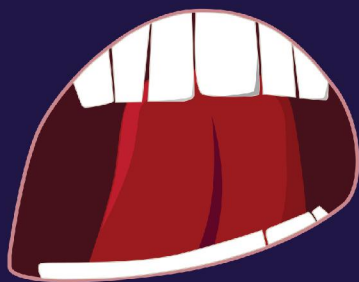
- Habit persists as permanent teeth erupt
- Vigorous thumb sucking



## Tongue Thrusting

A common nursing reflex in infants and young children. Occasionally it can have negative effects such as:

- Misalignment of the teeth
- Speaking with a lisp
- Sign of abnormal tongue positioning
- Symptoms of abnormal tongue thrust:
  - Tongue resting in the wrong position
  - Open resting lips
  - Difficulty chewing food



## Tooth Loss

Premature loss of baby teeth can be caused by a few different issues, including:

- Decay
- Not enough jaw space
- Injury

Early tooth loss can cause neighbouring teeth to shift or grow in at odd angles.

Space maintainers are one way to ensure that teeth grow in straight after premature tooth loss.



TOOTH FAIRY SMILES  
pediatric dentistry

Sources:

<http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/babies-and-kids/concerns/>  
[http://digital.ipcprintservices.com/publication/?m=17255&l=1#{"issue\\_id":64422,"page":0}](http://digital.ipcprintservices.com/publication/?m=17255&l=1#{)  
<https://www.aquafresh.com/kids/brushing-tips/common-dental-problems-in-children/>  
<http://www.healthysmiles.org.nz/default,21,common-problems.sm>