Tooth Decay

Tooth decay is the most common mouth disease. It is important to take care of your child's teeth. In the first 12 years, the baby teeth are replaced by the permanent teeth.

For early treatment of decay, your child should get their first dental checkup by two years of age. This is important to watch for cavities.

Decay shows up as a white chalky area on the tooth. It later softens and the tooth structure breaks down.

PREVENTING TOOTH DECAY

- For children, dentist visits are mainly to prevent dental problems.
- Sealants can help prevent cavities.
- Fluoride tablets may also be prescribed for children over 3 years of age. Fluoride makes teeth stronger.
- Daily cleaning with a toothbrush
- Daily flossing.
- Regular visits with a dentist for check-ups and cleanings are also very important.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You or your child have a fever over 102º F (38.9º C).
- You see redness and swelling of the face, jaw, or neck.
- You or your child cannot open mouth.
- There is severe pain in a tooth.

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