

[Pediatr Clin North Am.](#) 2000 Oct;47(5):1043-66, vi. [Links](#)

## **Infant oral health and oral habits.**

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Many oral diseases and conditions, including dental caries (cavities) and malocclusions, have their origins early in life. Prudent anticipatory guidance by the medical and dental professions can help prevent many of the more common oral health problems. This article provides information on the rationale for early dental examination and instructions for pediatric and family practitioners in scheduling and conducting an early oral intervention appointment. In addition, feeding practices, non-nutritive sucking, mouth breathing, and bruxing are discussed, including their effects on orofacial growth and development.

PMID: 11059349 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]