

Teething: What Parents Should Know

Babies usually develop their first teeth when they are 4 – 7 months of age. Some may have their first tooth at 3 months. Other babies may be almost 1 year before a tooth appears. Do not worry. Avoid comparing babies. Your baby has her own time line for getting her teeth.

The two lower middle teeth (incisors) are usually the first to appear. The 4 upper middle teeth arrive next. After those 6 teeth come in, other incisors and molars arrive. By the time your child is 3 years of age, he will have about 20 primary teeth.

Most parents say their baby had some discomfort when teething. Some babies feel more discomfort than others. Many babies seem to feel little or no discomfort. Often, discomfort is worse at night when baby is not as active.

Does teething cause certain symptoms? Yes. These can include:

- Drooling,
- Gum-rubbing,
- Irritability,
- Decreased appetite for solid food, and
- Sleep problems.

Some babies may have a slight

fever around 101 F, but less than 102 F.

Teething does not cause severe symptoms. However, babies can get infections and illnesses while they are teething. Call your doctor if your baby has:

- A rectal temperature of 101 F or higher (100.4 F or higher if younger than 3 month),
- A cough,
- Diarrhea, or
- Symptoms that worry you.

Also, call if your baby is not taking fluids. Babies get very sick – fast. Call the doctor if you think your baby is ill.



Tips to Help Your Teething Baby

1. Provide a cold, wet washcloth or cold teething ring for him to chew. Items should be cool, *not frozen*. Use rings made of firm rubber.
2. Massage her gums gently with a clean finger or cool, wet washcloth.
3. Give him tender loving care. Cuddle and hold him. Gently rub his back. Rock and sing to him.
4. Call your doctor before using over-the-counter pain products or numbing gels. They may be harmful.

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1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
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