

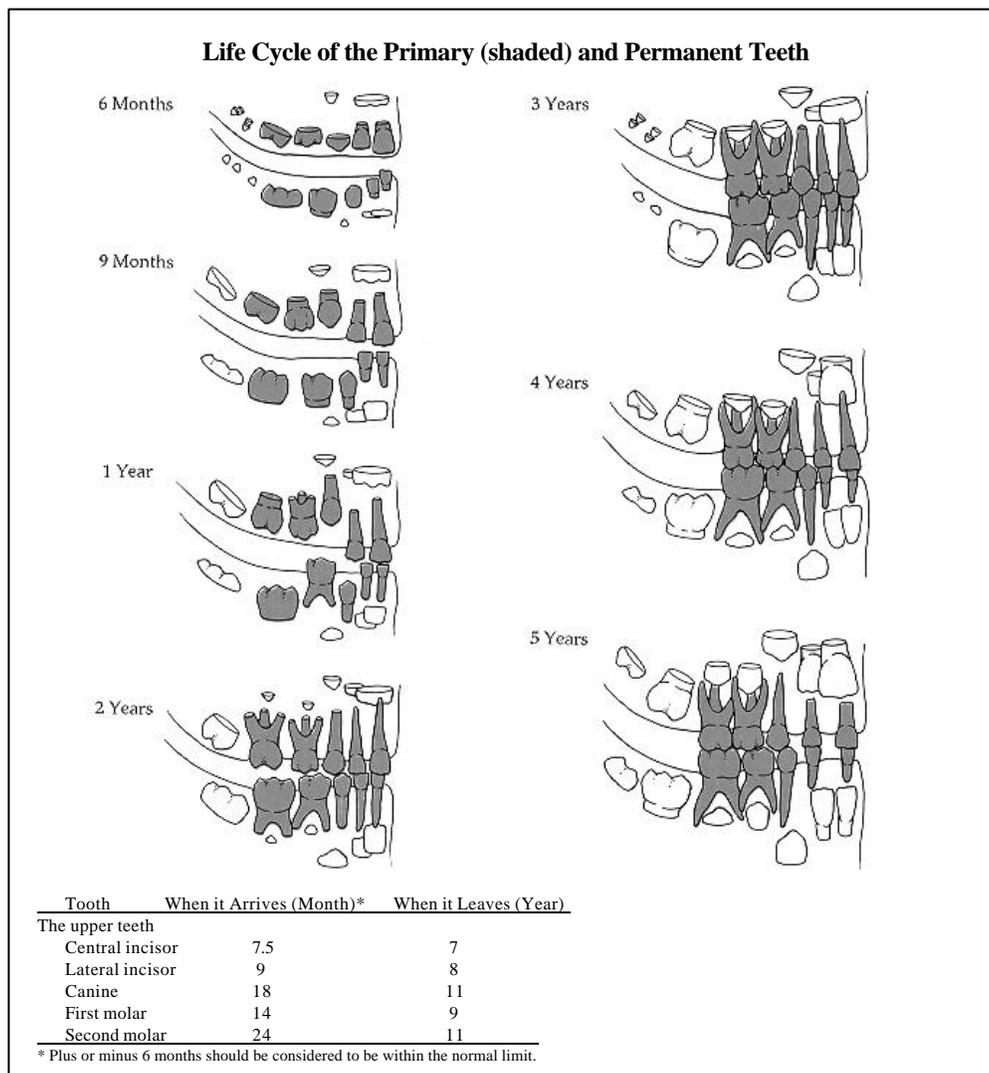
DENTAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

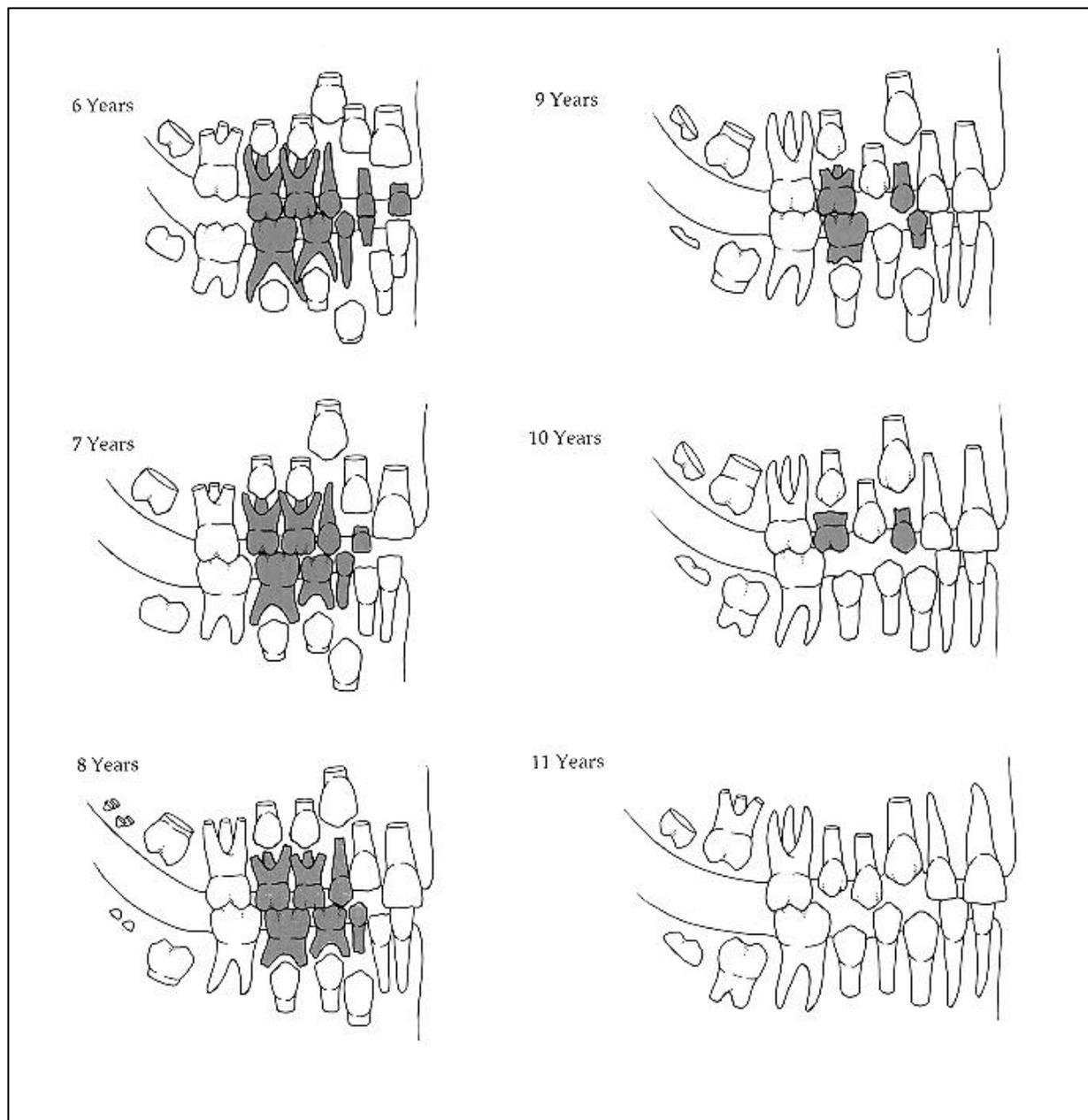
LIFE CYCLE OF THE PRIMARY  
& PERMANENT TEETH

About 3 months after conception a baby's teeth are already beginning to form and to be recognizable. Some parts of all of the primary teeth form before birth. Primary teeth also go by the names baby teeth, milk teeth, and first teeth. Except for a tiny piece of the first permanent molar, the rest of the permanent teeth begin forming right after birth.

The primary teeth generally come into the mouth when the child is between 6 and 14 months old. They may be the two center front teeth on the bottom, or the two center front on the top--called incisors. They are small, even, and very white. When all four front incisors are in, the lateral incisors--the very small teeth on either side of the front center teeth will make their appearance, probably two at a time.

Some children get their teeth early; some children get their teeth late. There's really no medical importance attached to the timing. Every child's schedule is different and it may safely vary from the chart on this Fact Sheet. This chart will provide an indication of the standard progression, using average ages of eruption. The eruption time might deviate by as much as 10 to 12 months and still be within the normal range. In general, girls' teeth tend to erupt slightly before boys' teeth do.





**For additional information contact:**

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**Reference:**

1. Moss, Stephen J. Growing up cavity free: a parent's guide to prevention. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois, 1993.