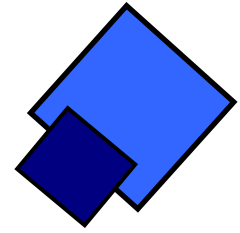


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## Let's Talk Teeth!

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### Baby Teeth

**Teacher:** What's the difference between "baby" teeth and permanent adult teeth?

Discuss with class

**Explanation:** When you are small, you only need small teeth. When you grow bigger, you need more teeth for a bigger mouth and you need bigger teeth too.

- When you were between six and ten months old, you would begin to get your "baby" teeth.
- The Central Incisors (front middle teeth) usually come in first (children to point to teeth), and then teeth begin appearing on either side and work their way back to the second molars (children to point to teeth).
- By the time you reach three years old, you will have most of your "baby" teeth.
- When you are about seven years old, the Central Incisors (point to teeth) get loose and fallout and slowly a new, bigger tooth comes through - the permanent tooth. Your permanent teeth now grow and replace all your baby teeth. "Baby" teeth are important because they hold the place for permanent teeth and help guide them into correct position.
- When you have teeth, you can speak properly and you can chew things. All animals have teeth: fish, sheep, elephants, horses, mice and birds have a beak instead of teeth.

Optional mention of the Tooth Fairy - it does give many children an incentive to wiggle the teeth out and get a reward.