



Children's New Adult Teeth

The new adult teeth start to appear in the mouth between 5 to 7 years of age and may be a cause of concern for some parents. Parents can play an important role in helping their children adjust to the changes developing in the mouth by understanding how new teeth grow.

What Happens?

The first adult molar usually comes through at about 6 years of age, behind the last baby molar. At about the same time, the lower front baby teeth become loose. The adult teeth 'eat' (resorb) the roots of the baby teeth until they become very loose and eventually fall out. This process occurs gradually throughout the whole mouth until all the baby teeth are replaced by 12 to 14 years of age.

What Can Go Wrong?

Adult teeth can sometimes grow behind or in front of the baby teeth creating a double row of teeth. However, a child can usually remove the loosened baby teeth by wiggling them over a number of weeks. Usually once the baby teeth are gone, pressure exerted by the lips, tongue and cheeks will help to bring the new teeth into the correct position.



What Can You Do?

Encourage your child to wiggle their baby teeth once they have become loose. Also encourage good toothbrushing habits even if it is a little uncomfortable to clean around the loose teeth. It is important to maintain a healthy environment for the new teeth.

Always seek professional advice if you are concerned about the way your child's teeth are growing.

Contact the Dental Health Education Unit for further information on
9313 0604/5 or email dheu@dental.health.wa.gov.au
Alternatively visit www.dental.wa.gov.au



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