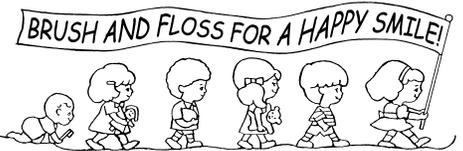


**JONATHON EVERETT LEE, D.D.S., INC.**  
**BRIAN D. LEE, D.D.S., M.S.D., INC.**  
*Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry*  
**Specializing in Dentistry for Infants, Children and Teenagers**



**1291 East Hillsdale Boulevard, Suite 100**  
**Foster City, California 94404**  
**Telephone: (650) 574-4447**  
**Fax: (650) 574-4041**

American Academy of Pediatrics   
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

[Members Only Channel](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [BookStore](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Home](#)

## News Release

### AAP SAYS EVERY CHILD NEEDS ORAL HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT AT SIX MONTHS

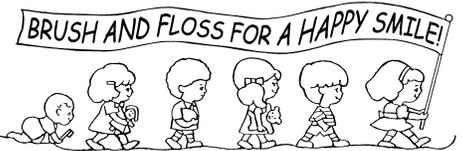
*Below is a news digest on a policy statement published in the May issue of [Pediatrics](#), the peer-reviewed, scientific journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).*

**For Release:** May 5, 2003, 12:01 am (ET)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified tooth decay as possibly the most common infectious disease among children, and more than 40 percent of U.S. children have tooth decay by the time they enter kindergarten. Many people don't know that tooth decay is contagious, and can, for example, be passed from a mother or caregiver to an infant by sharing utensils. Other causes of decay include putting a baby to bed with a bottle, and inadequate fluoride intake. In a new policy statement, entitled "[Oral Health Risk Assessment Timing and Establishment of the Dental Home.](#)" the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) says that every child should begin to receive oral health risk assessments by six months of age by a pediatrician or other qualified pediatric health care provider. Because pediatricians are more likely to encounter new mothers and infants than dentists, the AAP recommends they be aware of the risk factors of early childhood tooth decay and make appropriate decisions regarding intervention and referral timing to establish a relationship with a dentist.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 57,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.*

**JONATHON EVERETT LEE, D.D.S., INC.**  
**BRIAN D. LEE, D.D.S., M.S.D., INC.**  
*Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry*  
**Specializing in Dentistry for Infants, Children and Teenagers**



**1291 East Hillsdale Boulevard, Suite 100**  
**Foster City, California 94404**  
**Telephone: (650) 574-4447**  
**Fax: (650) 574-4041**

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

## Policy Statement

---

Pediatrics

Volume 111, Number 5

May 2003, pp 1113-1116

---

### Oral Health Risk Assessment Timing and Establishment of the Dental Home

#### ESTABLISHING THE DENTAL HOME

The concept of the "dental home" is derived from the American Academy of Pediatrics concept of the "medical home." The American Academy of Pediatrics states, "the medical care of infants, children, and adolescents ideally should be accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective. It should be delivered or directed by well-trained physicians who provide primary care and help to manage and facilitate essentially all aspects of pediatric care."<sup>18</sup> Pediatric primary dental care needs to be delivered in a similar manner. The dental home is a specialized primary dental care provider within the philosophical complex of the medical home. Referring a child for an oral health examination by a dentist who provides care for infants and young children 6 months after the first tooth erupts or by 12 months of age establishes the child's dental home and provides an opportunity to implement preventive dental health habits that meet each child's unique needs and keep the child free from dental or oral disease. The dental home should be expected to provide:

- An accurate risk assessment for dental diseases and conditions
- An individualized preventive dental health program based on the risk assessment
- Anticipatory guidance about growth and development issues (ie, teething, digit or pacifier habits, and feeding practices)
- A plan for emergency dental trauma
- Information about proper care of the child's teeth and gingival tissues
- Information regarding proper nutrition and dietary practices
- Comprehensive dental care in accordance with accepted guidelines and periodicity schedules for pediatric dental health
- Referrals to other dental specialists, such as endodontists, oral surgeons, orthodontists, and periodontists, when care cannot be provided directly within the dental home