

WHEN A BABY IS BORN, EVEN THOUGH TEETH CAN'T BE SEEN, ALL 20 PRIMARY TEETH ARE THERE. BABY TEETH TYPICALLY BEGIN TO ERUPT BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 MONTHS AND 1 YEAR. USUALLY THE FRONT FOUR TEETH ARE THE FIRST TO APPEAR.

TEETHING IS OFTEN PAINFUL AND MANY BABIES EXPERIENCE SORE OR TENDER GUMS. TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE PAIN, TRY RUBBING THE GUMS WITH A CLEAN FINGER OR SMALL COLD SPOON.

CHILDREN MAY BEGIN TO PUT OBJECTS INTO THEIR MOUTHS AND BITE THEM; IF THAT HAPPENS TRY A CHILLED TEETHING RING.

THERE ARE ALSO ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATIONS FOR CHILDREN, OR OVER-THE-COUNTER TOPICAL OINTMENTS FOR NUMBING THE GUMS. HOWEVER, IF A FEVER DEVELOPS, CALL YOUR PEDIATRICIAN, IT'S NOT A NORMAL PART OF TEETHING.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING TEETHING, ASK YOUR DENTIST.

FOR THE ADA DENTAL MINUTE, I'M DR. MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL.