



PRESCHOOLER TOOTH DECAY

Impacts on Health and Learning

TODAYS OUTCOMES

- ◆ Understand the process of tooth decay
- ◆ Know the implications of tooth decay in young children
- ◆ Know how to prevent tooth decay
- ◆ Know what Early Childhood Tooth Decay is
- ◆ How you can be an oral health champion
- ◆ How to assist parents to obtain dental care
- ◆ Tell us how we can assist you better





I'm not a dental professional. **Why do I need to know about teeth?**



Why do teeth matter ?

Teeth are needed for:

- ◆ Clear speech
- ◆ Social interaction
- ◆ Self Esteem
- ◆ Eating

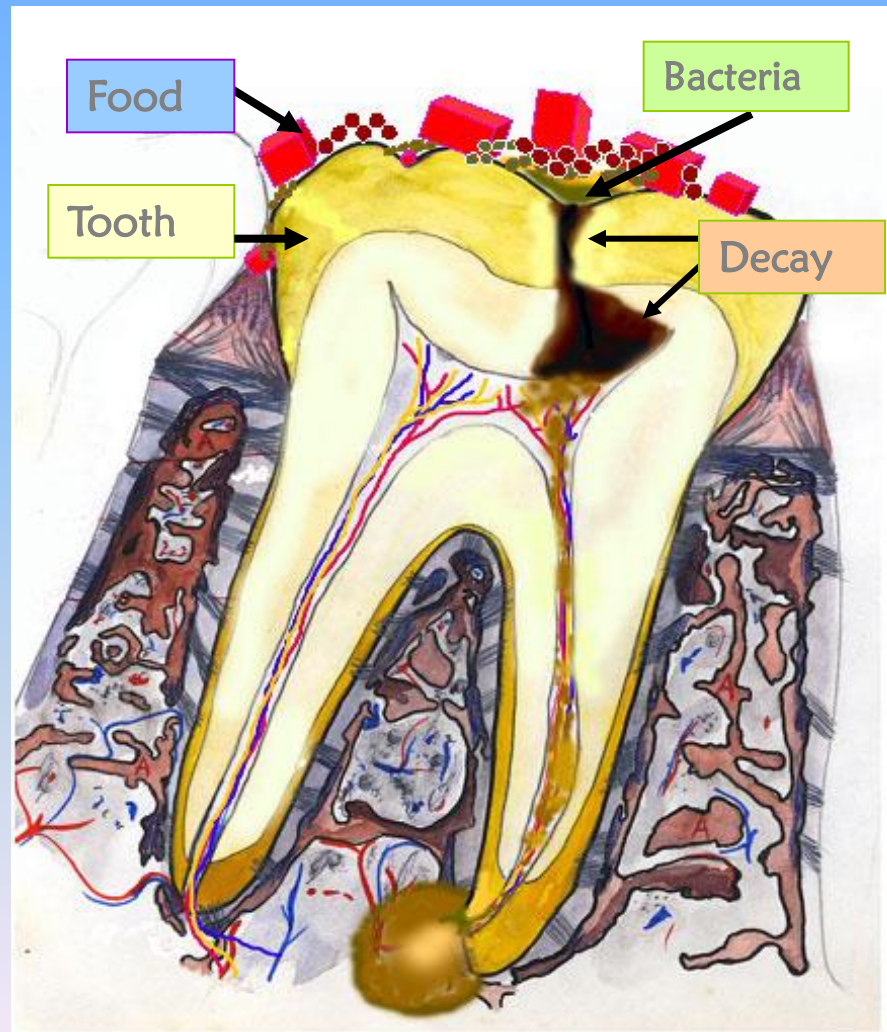


Prevalence of Dental Decay

Dental decay is *the* most common chronic disease of childhood!



BACTERIA + **FOOD**
+ **TOOTH** = **DECAY** *frequency*



Bacteria + **Sugar** + Tooth = Decay

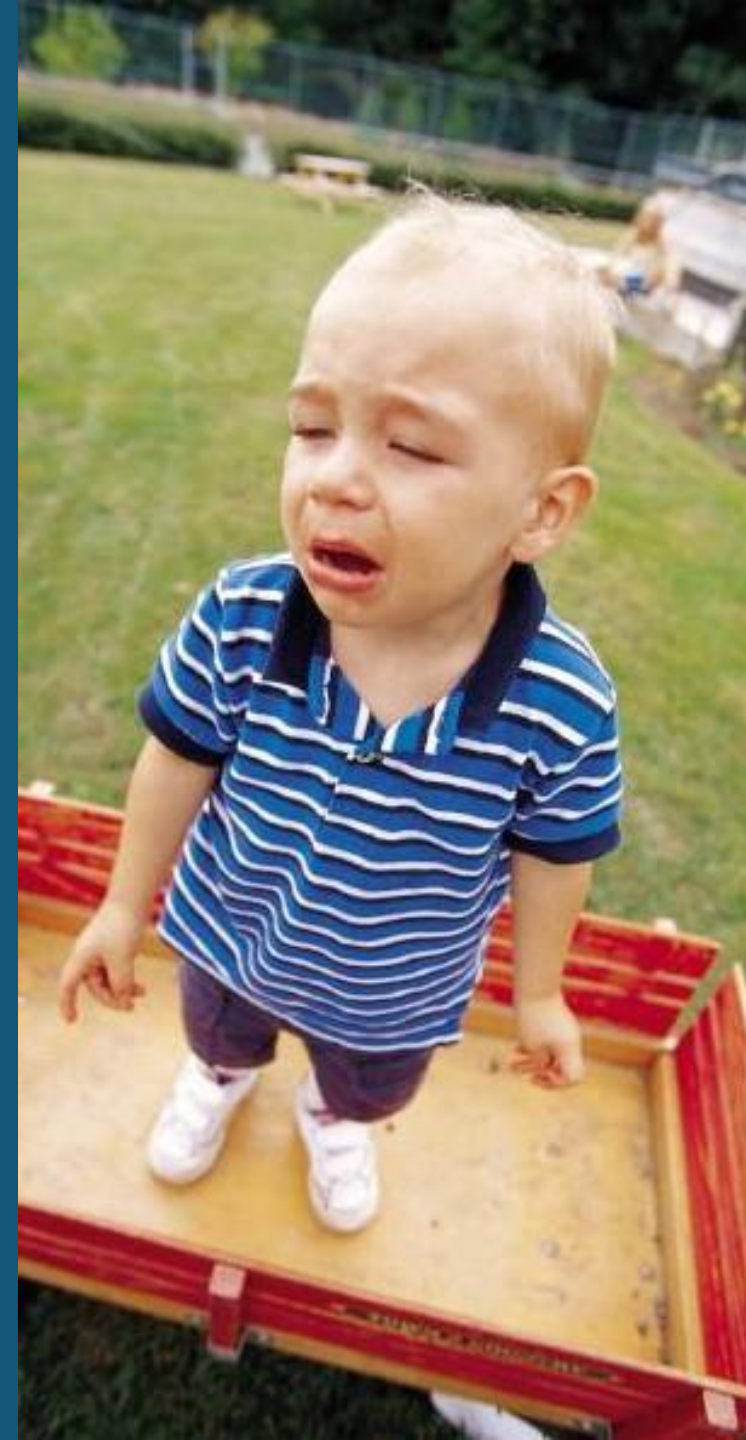




Early Childhood Tooth Decay

Undesirable Outcomes:

- ◆ pain, infection, loss of function
- ◆ affects learning, communication, nutrition, sleep
- ◆ lower body weight
- ◆ chronic inflammation
- ◆ psychological impact
- ◆ lasting detrimental impact on the dentition





Recent Research

Sick Kids Study

Academic Performance

- UK Study
- Los Angeles County, California



**This is where
young
children have
dental decay
treated**

Surgery under general
anesthetic



Tooth Decay is Preventable with Good Habits

- ◆ Delay the introduction of sweetened foods and drinks
- ◆ Avoid juice
- ◆ Avoid the sippy cup habit
- ◆ Do not use food or drink as a pacifier
- ◆ Have set meal and snack times
- ◆ Parent should brush their child's teeth 2 times each day
- ◆ Use only a smear or grain of rice amount of fluoride tooth paste
- ◆ Be aware of and avoid the spread of decay causing bacteria



Red Flags

- ◆ Parent/caregiver has poor dental health
- ◆ Siblings have had a history of cavities
- ◆ Socio –economic status
- ◆ Lack of routines for:
 - Mealtimes
 - Basic hygiene (bathing, hair, tooth brushing)



Red Flags (continued)

Access to care

- Routine medical preventive care – e.g. immunizations, prenatal
- No regular family dental care

Attitudes

- Dental care (doesn't do any good, should be avoided, not my problem)
- Food (OK to soothe, bribe)



Referrals for Dental Care

- ◆ Speak to the parent about your concern
- ◆ Does the family have coverage through private insurance, ODSP or Ontario Works?
- ◆ Does the parent need financial assistance for care? *
- ◆ Has the parent ignored your concerns and the child is in pain?**



Does the parent need assistance for dental care??

- ◆ Ontario Works
- ◆ Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- ◆ Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)
- ◆ Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT)
- ◆ Low cost check ups and cleanings, some restorative at Georgian College Barrie cost \$10 - \$30



Has the Parent ignored your concerns and child is in pain?

- ◆ Duty to report neglect or abuse to Children's Aid
- ◆ <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/childrensai/d/reportingabuse/index.aspx>



Be an Oral Health Champion:

Teach children about good oral health

- ◆ Teach children about nutrition
- ◆ Encourage children to drink water during the day
- ◆ Be aware that tooth decay is caused by bacteria that can be passed from one person to another
- ◆ Reward children with stickers, praise or fun activities instead of food
- ◆ Be a good role model



Additional

- ◆ Be aware of cues to Oral Health Issues
- ◆ Alert the parents to potential dental problems
- ◆ Provide parents with information on dental assistance programs through the Health Unit



Everyone Deserves a Pain-Free Smile



What do you need as support from the SMDHU?

- ◆ Posters
- ◆ Brochures
- ◆ Newsletter information inserts
- ◆ Referral information forms for Health Unit assistance or programs
- ◆ More background information for the binder
- ◆ Other????



◆ References:

- ◆ Open Wide – National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Centre www.mchoralhealth.org
- ◆ Br Dent J 2006 Nov25;201(10):625-6. Shelham, A. Dental Caries affects body weight ,growth and quality of life in preschool children.
- ◆ American Journal of Public Health, September 2012, vol 102,No.9. Seirawan, H. et al. The Impact of Oral Health on the Academic Performance of Disadvantaged Children.
- ◆ Pediatric Dentistry 28.3 2006. Clark, M. Malnourishment in Children with Severe Early Childhood Caries.



Thank you !

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