



Collins Dentistry for Children

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TRAUMA TO BABY TEETH

Trauma to baby teeth (usually front teeth) occurs reasonably frequently. Fortunately, most children receive little, if any, visible damage to his/her teeth. However, there is the possibility of problems developing following a traumatic dental incident.

The following are signs and/or changes that you will need to look for in the coming weeks and months:

1. **Color changes:** The traumatized tooth/teeth may discolor. This may vary from light gray or yellow to dark gray or brown.
2. **Abscess (infection):** A “gum boil” may form above the traumatized tooth/teeth.
3. **Swelling:** Generalized swelling may occur in the vicinity of the traumatized tooth/teeth and can cause temporary lip or facial disfiguration.
4. **Mobility:** The traumatized tooth/teeth may become very loose after they have initially tightened following the original traumatic incident.
5. **Discomfort:** Complaints of discomfort associated with the traumatized tooth/teeth can occur. An example would be your child not wanting to use his/her front teeth for biting and chewing.

Please keep your child on a **soft diet for the first 5-7 days** following the traumatic incident. Acetaminophen (“Tylenol”) or Ibuprofen (“Advil”) may be taken every 4-6 hours as needed for discomfort. In most cases, Dr. Nilfa will want to examine your child within 4-10 weeks following the initial traumatic incident.

If any of the changes listed above occur, or if you have any additional questions, please contact our office as soon as possible.