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## TEETHING

Your baby's first tooth to appear is usually one of the lower front teeth, or central incisors. It typically erupts between 4 and 12 months of age. Subsequent teeth can appear at varying intervals.

### **Signs and symptoms that can be associated with teething include:**

Drooling	Increased saliva
Increased biting	Rubbing the gums
Change in appetite	Change in sleeping patterns

There is no one specific symptom that will tell parents that a baby is teething. Most parents believe that teething will cause irritability, but this is not true for every baby. Also, teething will not cause severe diarrhea or significantly high fevers, but it may cause a slight increase in your baby's normal temperature.

### **What can I do for my baby when he is teething?**

- Allow your baby to chew or bite on something cold, such as a clean damp washcloth or a teething ring.
- Massage your baby's gums with a clean finger.

You may give acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin / Advil) for pain, but you should not give acetaminophen to babies less than 3 months of age or ibuprofen to babies less than 6 months of age without discussing this first with your doctor.

### **What to avoid when your baby is teething.**

- Topical anesthetic agents such as oragel or anbesol are not recommended and could possibly cause an allergic reaction.
- Do not tie a teething ring around your baby's neck, as this presents a strangulation hazard.

### **Call our office for:**

- Excessive irritability or crying
- Ill appearance
- Fever of 100.4 or higher

**For any urgent or emergent medical concerns, please call 911 or go immediately to the nearest emergency department.**