

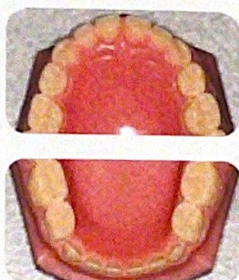


**WHEN SHOULD
WE EXTRACT
BABY TEETH?**

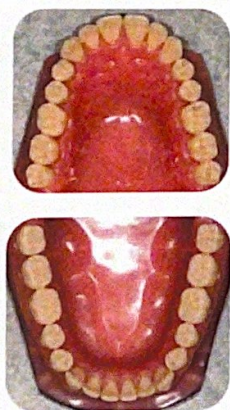
As humans, we have 2 sets of teeth in our lives:

Primary and Permanent Teeth

20 Primary teeth



32 Permanent teeth



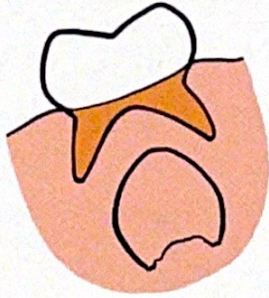
Our primary teeth start appearing at about 6 months old and start falling out at about 6 years old.

Our set of primary teeth does not change to our set of permanent teeth in an instant.

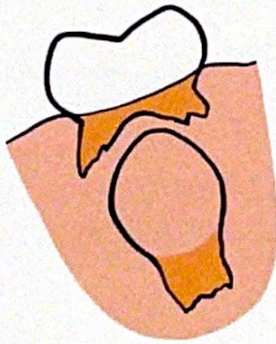
From 6 to 12 years of age, our primary teeth usually fall out to be replaced by our permanent teeth.



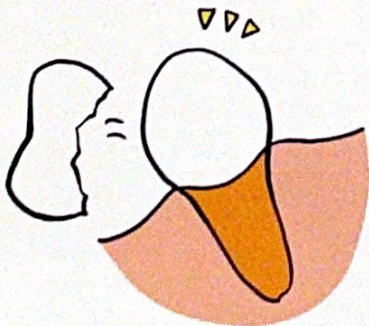
The process of permanent teeth replacing the primary teeth usually occurs naturally. The permanent tooth erupts towards the surface



and causes the roots of the primary tooth to disappear.



The primary tooth crown then falls off with no roots, making way for the permanent tooth.



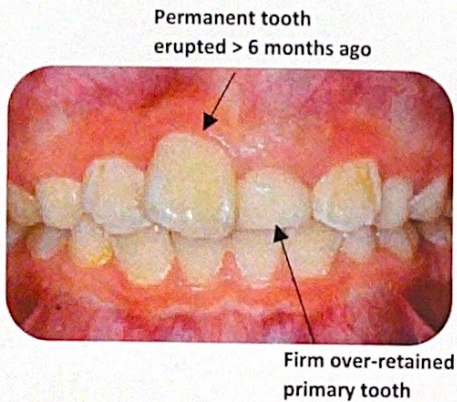
In special cases, the primary tooth does not drop off when the permanent tooth erupts.



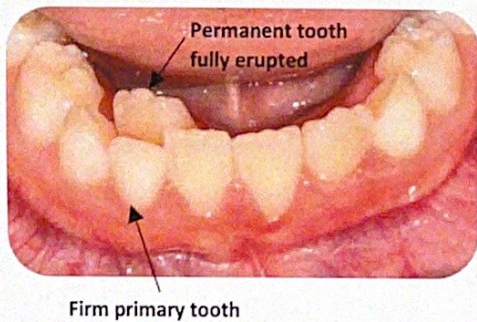
This may be due to previous trauma, tooth decay and infection or simply, a wrongly positioned permanent tooth.

Signs that require a dental check-up and possible extraction of the primary tooth:

Same tooth on the opposite side has dropped and the permanent tooth has erupted more than 6 months ago



The permanent tooth has fully erupted but the primary tooth is firm

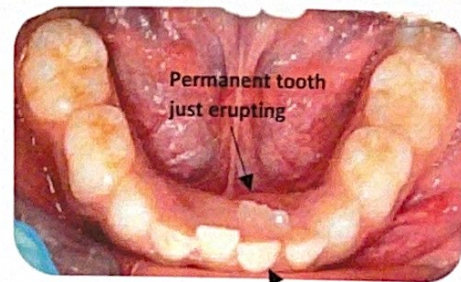


Signs that **do not** require extraction of the primary tooth:

The primary tooth is getting increasingly shaky

AND

The permanent tooth has not erupted or is just erupting



Shaky primary tooth

In cases like this, leaving the primary tooth to fall out naturally would be optimal. It would not be the cause of crooked teeth.

Keeping it clean with good tooth brushing even while it is shaky can encourage earlier fall out with less pain and bleeding.

If you require dental attention and your school dental clinic is not open, please contact your school's General Office or call Health Promotion Board's School Dental Service hotline at 6435 3782 for the contact details of neighbouring buddy clinics. Hotline operating hours are: 8am- 5pm (Mon to Fri); 8am- 1pm (Sat)