

# 45% of children ages 6-11 have a cavity<sup>1</sup>

## What is your child's risk of cavities?



### Low Risk

- Brushes teeth daily with fluoridated toothpaste
- Regular dental visits



### Moderate Risk

- Special Health Care Needs\*\*
- Dental/orthodontic appliances
- Defective restorations (fillings, crowns, space maintainers)

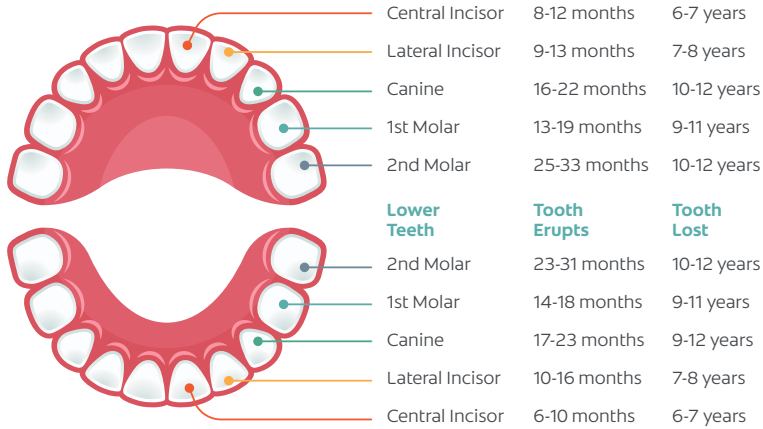


### High Risk

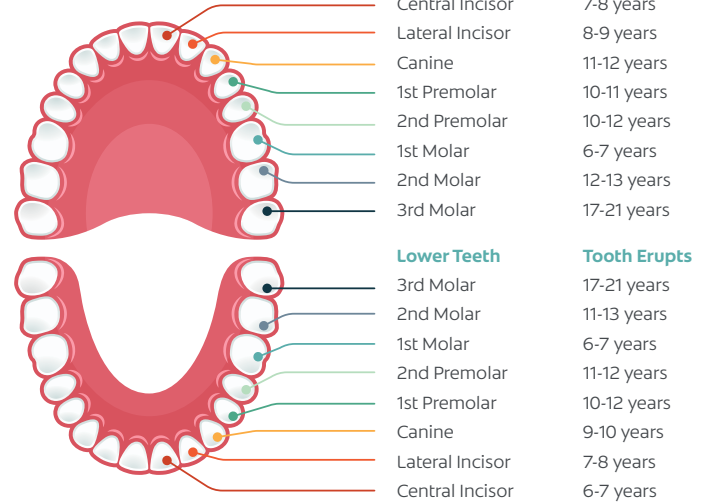
- 1 new white spot or cavity in the last 36 months
- Frequent exposure (>3 times/day) between-meal sugar-containing snacks or beverages per day
- Low salivary flow
- Visible Plaque on teeth
- Dental enamel defects
- Restorations placed in the last 3 years (new patients) or last 12 months (patient of record)

# Eruption Chart

## (Baby/Deciduous) Teeth Chart



## Adult (Permanent) Teeth Chart



**X rays are a valuable diagnostic tool** to see how teeth are erupting, whether there are missing or extra teeth and to detect any problems that cannot be seen visually.



Panoramic x-ray of primary and erupted and unerupted permanent teeth



### Myth

Dental X-rays are not necessary for children.



### Fact

Dental X-rays are needed to identify problems that cannot be seen during a clinical examination including cavities between teeth and the presence of extra or missing teeth.\*

\*Benavides E, Krecioch JR, Connolly RT, et al. Optimizing radiation safety in dentistry: clinical recommendations and regulatory considerations. J Am Dent Assoc. 2024;155(4):280-293.e4

# Risk factors of cavities:

Any of these can increase your child's risk of tooth decay.  
A combination may increase your risk from moderate to high.



Sugary and  
acidic foods and  
drinks, starches,  
sticky foods



Frequent use  
of certain  
medications that  
cause dry mouth



Poor oral  
hygiene



Mouth  
breathing



Orthodontic  
or removable  
appliances



Infrequent  
dental visits

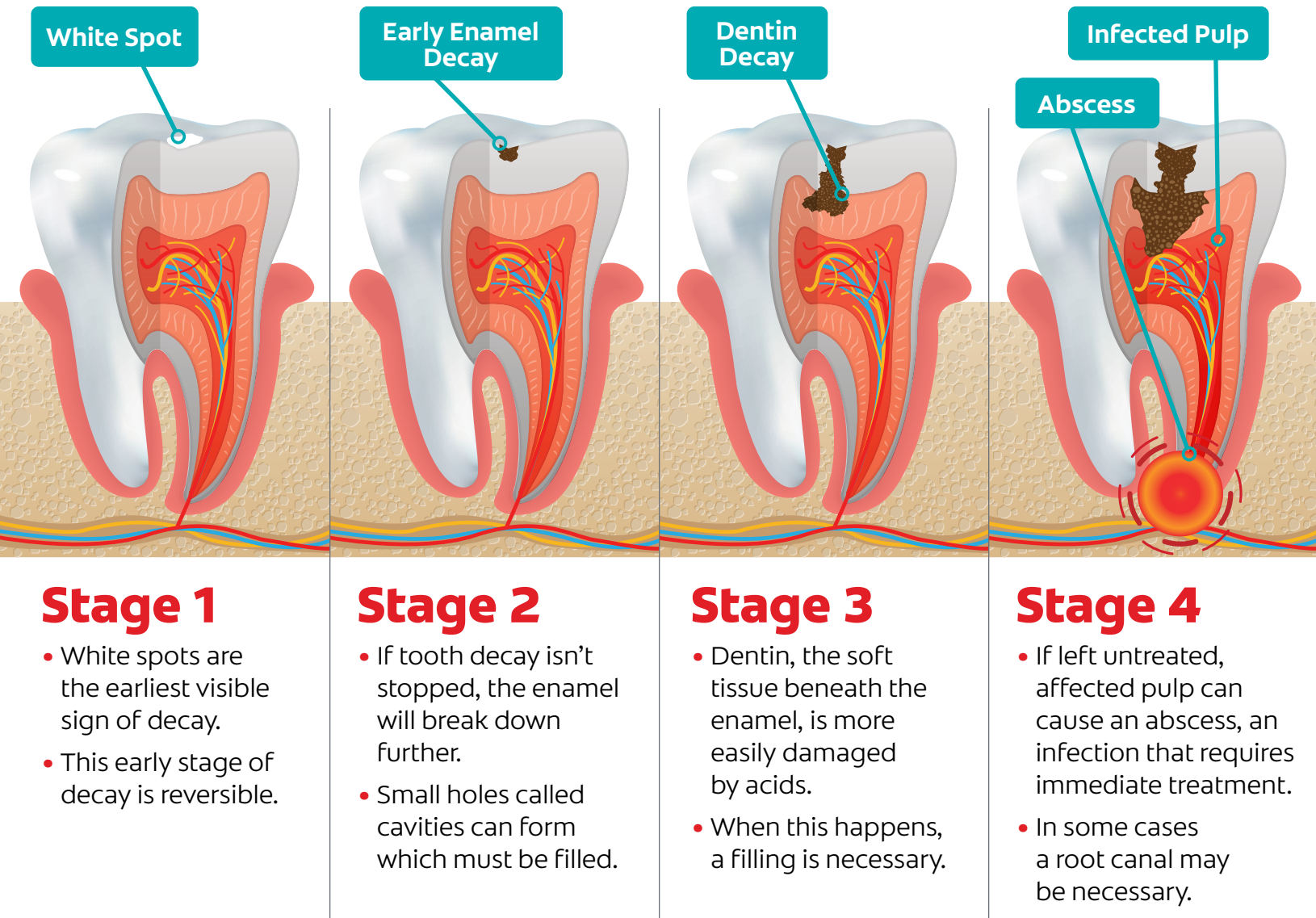


Fillings, crowns  
and bridges



Your cavity  
history

# Stages of tooth decay



## Stage 1

- White spots are the earliest visible sign of decay.
- This early stage of decay is reversible.

## Stage 2

- If tooth decay isn't stopped, the enamel will break down further.
- Small holes called cavities can form which must be filled.

## Stage 3

- Dentin, the soft tissue beneath the enamel, is more easily damaged by acids.
- When this happens, a filling is necessary.

## Stage 4

- If left untreated, affected pulp can cause an abscess, an infection that requires immediate treatment.
- In some cases a root canal may be necessary.

### ⊗ Myth

Baby teeth don't need care because they fall out anyway.

### ✓ Fact

Primary (baby) teeth act as placeholders for permanent teeth. Tooth decay in baby teeth can cause a tooth to fall out early. This can harm the permanent teeth that haven't yet erupted.

### ⊗ Myth

A filled tooth cannot get a cavity.

### ✓ Fact

A filling can break down over time and a tooth can decay around the edges of a filling leading to further decay, pain and potential infection.