

considerations are also important because habits begun during infancy tend to continue into later years. Foods with concentrated sugar are used sparingly (if at all) in the infant's diet. The practice of coating pacifiers with honey or using commercially available hard-candy pacifiers is discouraged. Besides being cariogenic, honey also may cause infant botulism, and parts of the candy pacifier can be aspirated (Box 9-1). Parents need to be counseled regarding the detrimental effects of frequent and prolonged bottle feeding or breastfeeding during sleep, when the sweet milk or other fluid (such as juice) bathes the teeth, producing early childhood caries. In addition, carbonated beverages should be avoided in infancy. (See Chapter 11 for a more extensive discussion of dental health, including early childhood caries.)

Box 9-1

Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention During Infancy

Birth to 4 Months Old

Major Developmental Accomplishments

Exhibits involuntary reflexes (e.g., crawling reflex may propel infant forward or backward; startle reflex may cause the body to jerk)

May roll over

Has increasing eye–hand coordination and voluntary grasp reflex

Injury Prevention

Aspiration

Aspiration is not as great a danger to this age group, but parents should begin practicing safeguarding early (see 4 to 7 Months Old later in this box).

Never shake baby powder directly on infant; place powder in hand and then on infant's skin; store container closed and out of the