



# Bottlemouth Syndrome

Bottlemouth syndrome is a special form of tooth decay ([/English/healthy-living/oral-health/Pages/Preventing-Tooth-Decay-in-Children.aspx](#)) in very young children. It is caused by prolonged exposure to milk or sugary liquids. Children at risk for bottlemouth syndrome take bottles of milk or juice ([/English/healthy-living/nutrition/Pages/Where-We-Stand-Fruit-Juice.aspx](#)) to bed at naptime and bedtime. They also carry sugary beverages or milk around during the day. It is most common in the upper front teeth. Children with bottlemouth syndrome often need oral surgery with general anesthesia ([/English/health-issues/conditions/treatments/Pages/Procedures-With-Anesthesia.aspx](#)).



## What to Look For:

- Red gums
- Irritated mouth
- Teeth that do not look normal

## What You Should Do:

Parents or primary caregiver should:

- Do not give your child a bottle of milk or juice (or any fluid containing sugar) at naptime, bedtime, or to carry around during the day. Only feed your child at specific meal and snack times.
- Give your child water after a feeding to rinse sugary liquid off the teeth.
- Give only water or don't give a sleep-time bottle.

## Other Caregivers Should:

- Talk with parents about the need to have the child's teeth examined by a medical provider.

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The information contained on this Web site should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

