



SPECIAL CARE

An Oral Health Professional's Guide to Serving Young Children with Special Health Care Needs

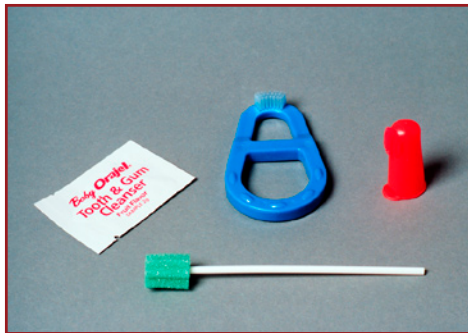
Oral Hygiene Aids

New oral hygiene aids give families more choices for cleaning their baby's or child's gums and teeth. You can buy most of these aids at grocery stores or drugstores. You can buy the rest from specialized dental care companies. Ask dental office staff or an occupational or physical therapist for help.

When you choose oral hygiene aids, think about your baby's or child's developmental age, how well your child can control the mouth muscles and motion, oral reflexes, oral sensitivity, special things your child likes (for example, favorite color), toothpaste flavor, and your child's self-care skills.



The following toothbrush adaptations are available: (1) bigger or textured handles for easier grip, (2) three-sided head of bristles, and (3) angled handles for hard-to-reach spots.



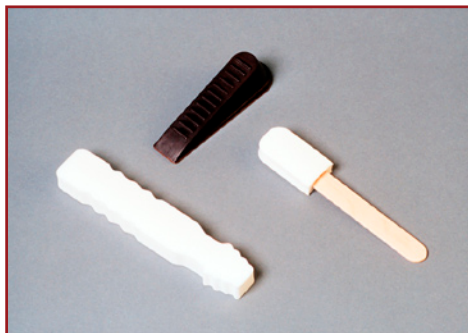
Cleaning aids for a baby's gums and teeth: teething ring with soft toothbrush bristles, cleanser and soft finger brush, and a Toothette™ oral swab for cleaning the gums or tongue.



A tooth care kit for young children: toothpaste with fluoride, toothbrush holder, small toothbrush with colored areas to show how much toothpaste to use, extra toothbrush, timer, mouth mirror, and floss on a floss holder.



Aids designed with bright colors and cartoon characters.



Aids made from plastic or rubber help to hold the child's mouth open and help the parents see inside the mouth and clean the teeth.



Floss, floss holder, and other aids to clean between teeth.