Begin Dental Check-up Early in Age

The conditions of the children's teeth will affect their health, psychological development and social life. Therefore, parents must not ignore their children's oral health conditions.

The first dental check-up of the children

The ideal time is around 2 to 3 years old when all the deciduous teeth have erupted with hardly any dental disease. Hence, what the child will take is a simple check-up.

A pleasant experience is very important to children

Children's fear of check-up is generally due to their fear of an unfamiliar environment. It is therefore very important for the parents to relate to their children the interesting things about the dental examination before the dental visit. By doing so, the children become interested in the check-up and be psychologically prepared for the examination.

The children's fear of pain is also one of the reasons for fear of check-up. The parents should not therefore harass their children with tooth filling or tooth extraction in their daily lives, lest they reject dental check-up. A pleasant experience (in particular the first one) will facilitate the children develop a habit of regular dental check-ups and increase their trust in dentists.

Annual dental check-up has many advantages

The dentist may:

1. record in detail the developmental status of the teeth (preferably at every six months interval);

2. provide parents with dietary advice so as to improve the oral health of their children;
3. apply fissure sealant to cover the fissures of the deciduous molars so as to reduce the chance of developing tooth decay;

4. detect and treat any dental disease early.

Oral Health Education Unit
Department of Health