Question and Answer

Q. **Will my teeth always look like my drawing?**

A. Children typically have 20 teeth, but they "lose" these teeth to be replaced by 32 adult teeth that last throughout their lifetimes, if they do what they need to take care of them. The first teeth, sometimes called "baby teeth," are the "Primary Dentition." The second teeth, sometimes called "adult teeth" are the "Permanent Dentition." Refer to "Tooth Chart."

Q. **What are changes to my teeth that I can help to stop from happening?**

A. **Cavities** (**caries)** are the most common dental disease in children. Cavities are from a bacterial infection. Bacterial infections are caused by a type of "germs" called **bacteria**. When the bacteria form on the teeth, it is called **plaque**. The "Ingredients" for a cavity are: 1) plaque 2) sugar 3) a tooth and 4) time.

> **Helpful Hint:** Oral Health terms to explain to students will be in **bold** (Refer to your "Oral Health Terms Glossary."

Q. **How does tooth decay happen?**

A. 1) Sugar combines with **plaque**; acid is formed.

2) Enamel is damaged by the acid.

3) The decay spreads into the dentin.

4) If decay goes through the pulp, an abscess may form at the root of the tooth.

Q. **What can happen if plaque is left on teeth?**

A. Plaque that is left on the teeth can lead to **gingivitis** (gum disease). Plaque forms along and below the **gums**. Bacteria in the plaque break down the cells in the gums and more blood goes to the area.

Module Preparation

❖ Gather materials for Activities

❖ Read "Clifford's Loose Tooth" or another book on the Dental Days Reading List.

Curriculum Objectives:

K.1.2) *Describe their own physical changes and unique characteristics*

1.3.1) *Understand, develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle*;

1.3.2) *Explain how good eating habits contribute to health and well-being.*

1.3.3) *Identify habits and products that are harmful to our health.*

2.5.2) *Compare properties of familiar liquids and solids and investigate how they interact.*