



Traumatic Injuries To Primary Teeth

It is common for kids to traumatize their front teeth

Immediate signs to watch for:

- *Discoloration* – black, gray, yellow
 - Indicative of change in health of tooth nerve
 - May not need treatment, but will need close monitoring
- *Gum boil* – small pimple in gum above tooth
 - Indicates the tooth nerve has died and become infected
 - Immediate treatment may involve extraction or root canal
- *Swelling/Pain* – very common immediately following injury
 - If it develops days/weeks later, may indicate infection



Long-term sequelae: RARE – but must be monitored for

- Damage to the permanent tooth developing underneath the primary tooth
 - *Enamel hypoplasia* – a snowflake white spot on the front surface of the permanent tooth
 - *Dilacerated root* – the root of the permanent tooth becomes misshaped
 - *Impacted/ectopic tooth* – permanent tooth fails to erupt or is in an abnormal position
 - *Arrested Development* – permanent tooth fails to develop



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