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### Tommy's First Visit to the Dentist [Misprinted] (1954)

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### **Recommended Citation**

American Dental Association, "Tommy's First Visit to the Dentist [Misprinted] (1954)" (1954). *Patient Dental Health Education Brochures*. 312.

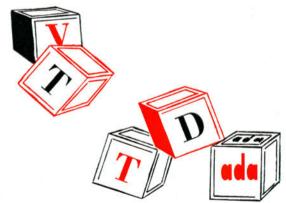
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# TOMMY'S FIRST VISIT TO THE DENTIST



Photography by GORDON COSTER

### AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

222 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

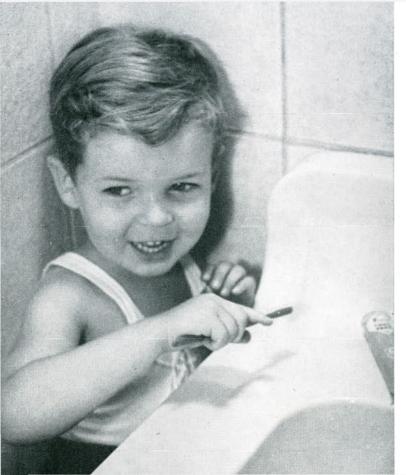
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## 70 Parents

Your child should be taken for his first visit to the dentist by the time all his primary teeth are in place, usually between the ages of two and three years. At the first dental visit, he may need nothing more than dental prophylaxis (cleaning of the teeth). But in case any cavities have developed in his new teeth, it is important to fill them before they endanger the life of the tooth itself. For even though the primary teeth will later be replaced by permanent ones, the primary teeth should remain in place as long as nature intended for proper mastication (chewing of food), clear speech, facial appearance and maintenance of proper spacing so that the permanent teeth will erupt in correct position.

The child's first visit to the dentist is also the best time to build a positive attitude toward the dentist as a person and to dental care. Before the initial visit, the parents should avoid speaking of their own dental experiences in terms that

will arouse fear in the child. Unless taught fear by adults the child will approach the dental visit as he does any other friendly experience, with a healthy feeling of curiosity. And since his first experience of dental care will probably involve no pain and little if any discomfort, his memory of it will not be one of fear. Once he learns to meet the dentist as a helpful friend, he will have established a pattern that will serve him well for the rest of his life.

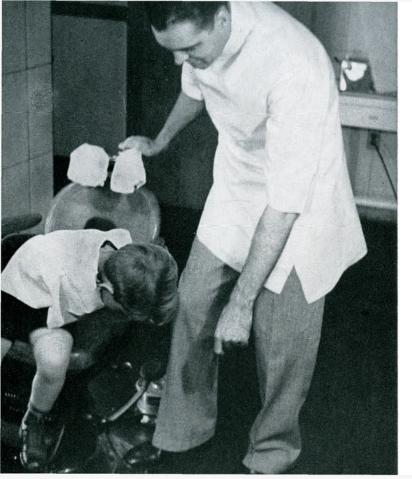


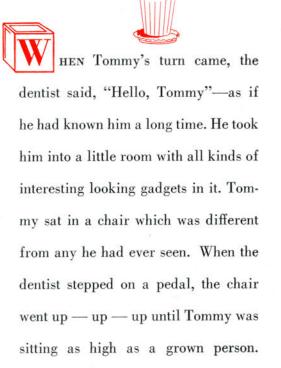
HEN Tommy was three years old, he could brush his teeth all by himself. One day his mother said, "Let's count your teeth, Tommy, and see how many you have." Guess how many there were! Twenty of themten in the upper part and ten in the lower part of Tommy's mouth! Mother said, "That's fine, now that you have all of your first teeth we must show them to the dentist. He said he wanted to see you when all your teeth were in."

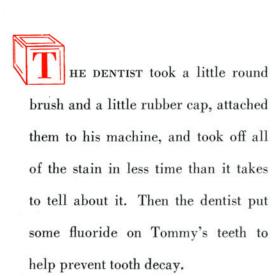


N A FEW days, Tommy and his mother went down bright and early one morning to see the dentist. First they sat in a little room where there were picture books for Tommy to look at. A nice lady in a white dress came out and asked mother questions about Tommy-his name, how old he was and so on.





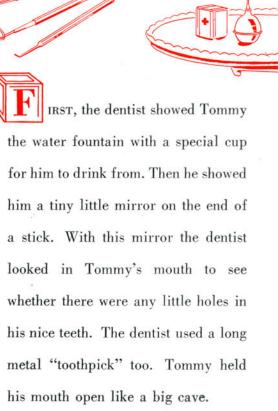


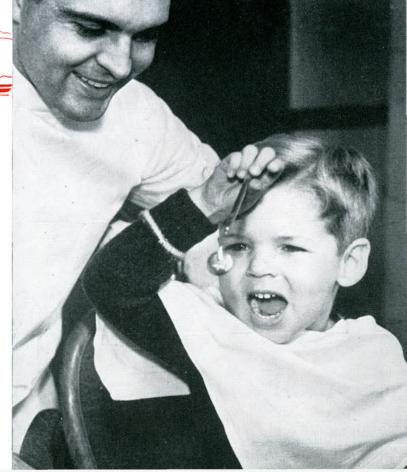


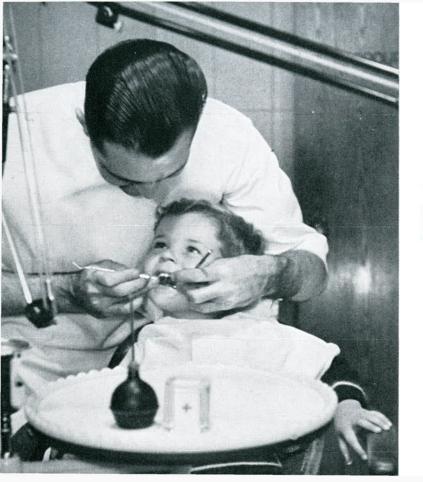




B отн the dentist and the nice lady in the white dress thought Tommy was a very good boy while he was having his teeth treated. And when he went home, Tommy told all of his friends what he and his mother had learned about the important first (primary) teeth.





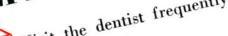




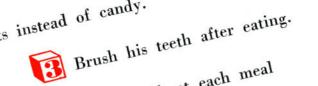
FTER the dentist had looked at every tooth, he said, "Tommy, except for some stain, your teeth are very clean. How do you keep them so nice?" Tommy said, "I brush them after I eat. I eat fruits and vegetables and drink my milk too."

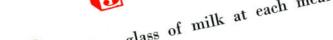


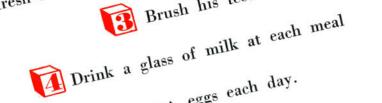
has learned that he should: Visit the dentist frequently.











and eat vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs each day.