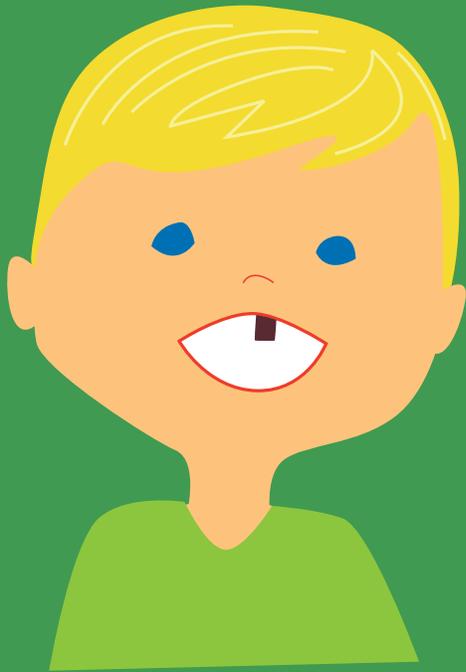


# The Tooth Fairy and Other Traditions When You Lose a Tooth



An Oral Health  
Discussion Guide  
for Grades K-3

Compliments of



**CHICAGO DENTAL SOCIETY**  
THE RESPECTED LEADER IN SCIENTIFIC DENTAL MEETINGS<sup>SM</sup>

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# The Tooth Fairy and Other Traditions When You Lose a Tooth

AN ORAL HEALTH DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR GRADES K-3

## Introduction

How many of you have ever lost a tooth? How many have new teeth growing in?

Do you know how many sets of teeth we get in our lifetime? 2

Do you know how many teeth you get in the first set of teeth? 20

Do you know what they're called? Baby or Primary Teeth

Do you know how many teeth you get in the second set of teeth? 32

Do you know what the second set is called? Adult Teeth

Losing baby teeth is very important. It means you're growing up and you're making room for the next set of teeth — The Adult Teeth!

## Tooth Fairy

When a tooth wiggles and moves back and forth and then one day falls out, what do you do with the tooth?

Let the children answer. If no one says the Tooth Fairy, ask if they've ever heard of the Tooth Fairy. Ask them, "Have you ever had a visit from the Tooth Fairy? What happened when she came?"

Proceed to talk about The Tooth Fairy and what other traditions children have when they lose a tooth. You can use the book "Throw Your Tooth on the Roof, Tooth Traditions from Around the World."

## Countries that believe in The Tooth Fairy

USA, Canada, England, Denmark, Australia

There are several important things you should know about the Tooth Fairy:

- She is invisible and cannot be seen.
- The Tooth Fairy only visits at night when children are sound asleep.
- A child must leave their clean tooth under their pillow
- The next morning a child will find a gift under their pillow

## Countries that believe a Mouse takes their tooth from under their pillow and leaves money

Mexico, France, Guatemala, Spain, Venezuela, Colombia

## **Countries that leave their tooth in a glass of water and a mouse drinks the water and leaves a coin in the glass**

Sweden, Argentina

## **Countries that throw their tooth on the roof for “Good Luck” and wish for a shiny new tooth**

Taiwan, Korea, India, Moldova, Georgia, Greece, Botswana, Cameroon, Sri Lanka, Indonesia

## **Countries that throw their lower tooth on the roof and throw their upper tooth in the dirt, because the new tooth will grow toward the old one and will come in straight**

Japan, China, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia

## **Countries that throw their tooth in a mouse or rat hole and hope the mice will give them back a strong white tooth**

Russia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan

## **Special Activities**

- Ask the children who have lost teeth to tell a Tooth Fairy story. Has she left anything special or different?
- Instruct the children to draw a picture of what they think the Tooth Fairy might look like.