

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Caries Risk Assessment Tool (CAT)

		Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
	Clinical Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No carious teeth in past 24 months • No enamel demineralization (enamel caries “white spot lesions”) • No visible plaque; no gingivitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carious teeth in the past 24 months • One area of enamel demineralization (enamel caries “white spot lesions”) • Gingivitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carious teeth in the past 12 months • More than one area of enamel demineralization (enamel caries “white –spot lesions”) • Visible plaque on anterior (front) teeth • Radiographic enamel caries • High titers of mutans streptococci • Wearing dental or orthodontic appliances • Enamel hypoplasia
	Environmental Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimal systemic and topical fluoride exposure • Consumption of simple sugars or foods strongly associated with caries initiation primarily at mealtimes • High caregiver socioeconomic status • Regular use of dental care in an established dental home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suboptimal systemic fluoride exposure with optimal topical exposure • Occasional (i.e., 1-2) between-meal exposures to simple sugars or foods strongly associated with caries • Mid-level caregiver socioeconomic status (i.e., eligible for school lunch program or SCHIP) • Irregular use of dental services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suboptimal topical fluoride exposure • Frequent (i.e., 3 or more) between-meal exposures to simple sugars or foods strongly associated with caries • Low- level caregiver socioeconomic status (i.e., eligible for Medicaid) • No usual source of dental care • Active caries present in the mother
	General Health Conditions			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with special health care needs • Conditions impairing saliva composition/flow

Complete AAPD Policy Statement with CAT available at: http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_CariesRiskAssess.pdf

Each child’s overall assessed risk for developing decay is based on the highest level of risk indicator circled above (i.e., a single risk indicator in any area of the “high risk” category classifies a child as being “high risk”).

Apply fluoride varnish according to risk status: Low – not needed; Moderate – 2 times/year; High – 4 times/year