

# Shared Germs = Shared Dental Decay



**Caregiver**



**Healthy Baby Teeth**



**Cavities / Decay**

- **If you have had a cavity, you carry the bacteria that causes dental decay and can pass it on.**
- **Children can get the bacteria as soon as they are born.**
- **Bacteria can be transferred from a caregiver or older sibling.**
- **Bacteria can be passed by sharing saliva.**
- **Avoid Sharing:**
  - **Toothbrushes**
  - **Utensils (forks, spoons)**
  - **Cups**
  - **Straws**
- **Avoid pre-testing baby's food.**
- **Clean pacifiers with water, not saliva.**
- **Parents – have current dental decay treated.**
- **Share love, not saliva and germs.**