Teething

Pre-reading

Questions:

• What do you know about teething?
• What more would you like to know about teething?

Definitions:

• Gums – the pink part of the mouth under the teeth
• Swell – to get bigger than normal

Reading

Babies are not born with teeth. When new teeth start to push through a baby’s gum, she is teething. Her gums may swell or little white dots might be seen. When babies are teething, they may drool a lot. They will also like to chew on things. Teething can cause pain for babies. There are things that can be done to help babies when they get a new tooth.

• Rub the baby’s gums.
• Give the baby a safe thing to chew. Stores sell safe teething toys.
• Give pain medicine if needed. First, read the bottle. Be sure not to give the baby too much.

A baby will get his first tooth between the ages of six and twelve months. A baby can be fussy when he gets a new tooth. He will need extra love and comfort.

Source: Your Child’s Health, written by B.D. Schmitt, M.D.

Level 2.0
Understanding

1. What are some signs of teething? (List at least three.) ________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. How can you help a teething baby? __________________________________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. Why might a teething baby be fussy? _________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. What does the word drool mean? ___________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. When does a baby get her first tooth? _______________________________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

Writing

Option A: Retell the reading in your own words.

Option B: Have you ever cared for a teething baby? If yes, write about it. If no, what did you learn that could help you care for one?