

Keeping Your Kids' Teeth Healthy



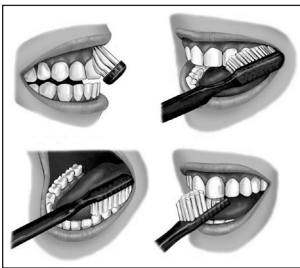
The Challenge

One in every four kids in our country has untreated cavities, which can turn into a big obstacle to their success in school. Toothaches or pains can also mean unnecessary disruptions and learning time gone by the wayside. Families with few means find it hard to access basic ongoing dental hygiene care. And, understandably, many parents are cautious about taking time from work to get this care for their families, particularly in difficult economic times. Families need a program that comes to their school every year to screen kids affordably and provide the kind of treatment that prevents cavities and unnecessary pain.



The Solution

Smile Partners, officially known as Washington State Smile Partners, is a well-established nonprofit, school-based program that provides oral health education and cavity prevention services on campus, removing obstacles many families face, such as transportation and acceptance of Medicaid patients among private dentists. Our portable program is staffed by a team of professional dental hygienists, dentists and site coordinators offering dental screening, sealants, anti-bacterials and fluoride varnish that are proven methods to reduce cavities by up to 85 percent. There are no shots, no drilling and no pain.



The Program

Smile Partners tries to make its services as affordable as possible. These services are provided at no cost to families covered by Provider One (Apple Health, DSHS, Molina) or families covered by private dental insurance plans. Families who do not have any dental coverage can receive these services for a low \$60 co-pay. Smile Partners returns each school year to provide screenings, check on sealants placed the previous year and provide ongoing preventive hygiene services to students. In the schools Smile Partners has served since 2009, visible tooth decay was nearly cut in half from 32.3 percent to 16.7 percent four years later.



The ABC of dental hygiene

- Screening** - A 3-minute oral health assessment to check the condition of teeth and gums.
- Cleaning** - Removing plaque and bacteria from teeth and gums.
- Fluoride** - Application of fluoride varnish to strengthen tooth enamel and prevent cavities.
- Sealants** - Application of protective coating to chewing surfaces of teeth to prevent cavities
- Referrals** - Facilitating followup restorative care with community dentists

Important: *Smile Partners can only treat children whose parents or guardians sign our consent form and return it by the due date on the form (see other side).*



Washington State Smile Partners, now in its tenth year, gratefully serves schools in Highline, Tukwila, Federal Way, Seattle, North Kitsap and Bremerton. For more information or details about our program, visit www.smilepartners.org or call us at 206-780-6908.