

Oral Health Tips

Back-to-School Dental Health: Do You Know Your ABC's?

Here is some straight “A” advice to help your children keep their teeth healthy and strong. By providing proper instruction, monitoring, encouragement and a positive personal example, you can help your children develop and maintain a healthy attitude about the importance of oral health.

Student Dental Health

- Don't forget to schedule a checkup with the dentist as needed.
- Ask the dentist if your child would benefit from sealants, a plastic coating for the top of back teeth to help prevent decay.
- Around age 9-10, consult with your dentist or orthodontist about if or when your child might benefit from orthodontic care (braces).
- Make sure your children drink fluoridated water and use fluoride toothpaste to help prevent tooth decay. Bottled or purified water may not have enough fluoride.
- Involve children in the selection of the type of toothbrush, dental floss and fluoride toothpaste they use. The more involved, the more likely they will form lasting good oral health habits.
- Teach your children that a mouthguard is priority equipment for participating in any sport that could result in a knocked-out or fractured tooth.

Good Snacking

- Teach children to limit in between meal sugar intake because it is used by the bacteria in plaque to form tooth decay-causing acid.
- Be aware that snacks from school vending machines are mighty tempting.

“A” is for Attention

Teach your children to pay attention to their teeth every day.

“B” is for Brushing with a Fluoride Toothpaste and Flossing

Involve your children in the selection of dental supplies.

“C” is for Checkups

Schedule regular dental checkups (frequency depends on the child's needs).

- Check to see if your school is one of the many that now include healthier vending machine options.
- Encourage your children to make healthy snack choices, avoid soda and drink lots of water.

Source: American Dental Association: www.ada.org

For more oral health information, please visit our Web site at www.decare.com

