



Healthy Smiles, Bright Futures



smile,
CALIFORNIA™
MEDI-CAL HAS DENTAL COVERED

Good Grades Begin with a Dental Check-Up



A child's oral health affects their whole body.

- ✓ A dental check-up should be on every family's back-to-school checklist.
- ✓ School readiness means a child is academically, physically, emotionally, and socially prepared to succeed in school.
- ✓ Healthy teeth not only help children eat, speak and sleep better they also allow them to perform better in school.

Cavities, also called tooth decay or caries, are largely preventable yet they remain the most common chronic disease of children.



If left untreated, tooth decay can affect children's academic performance, social-emotional development, sleep and nutrition.

Tooth Decay and Children



In California...

- More than **60%** of students have experienced tooth decay by third grade.*
- **1 in 5** kids have untreated tooth decay.*
- Approximately **440,000** children missed at least one day of school due to a dental problem in 2018.**

*2018-20 3rd Grade Basic Screening Survey, California Office of Oral Health

**2018 California Health Interview Survey. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

Tooth Decay and Children



Regular Dental Check-Ups Are Important

Good oral care routines like brushing twice a day and flossing are vital habits for all children to have but homecare routines cannot take the place of a regular dental check-up.



Regular Dental Check-Ups Are Important



**Regular dental check-ups
give dentists the consistent
opportunity to:**

- identify and treat tooth decay
- apply protective treatments like sealants and fluoride varnish
- discover issues that could not only cause pain but potentially impact a child's self-confidence and overall school performance, if left untreated.

Sealed Teeth are Protected Teeth

Molar sealants are liquid coatings painted on the chewing surface of teeth to prevent tooth decay. They harden into the grooves of the teeth, forming a shield over each tooth.

Sealants reduce cavities by **80%** and are a quick and painless service only a dentist or hygienist can provide.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/dental-sealants/index.html



What is a Dental Home?

Having a dental home allows a dentist to establish a relationship with your family giving them opportunities to identify and provide preventive treatment.



What is a Dental Home?

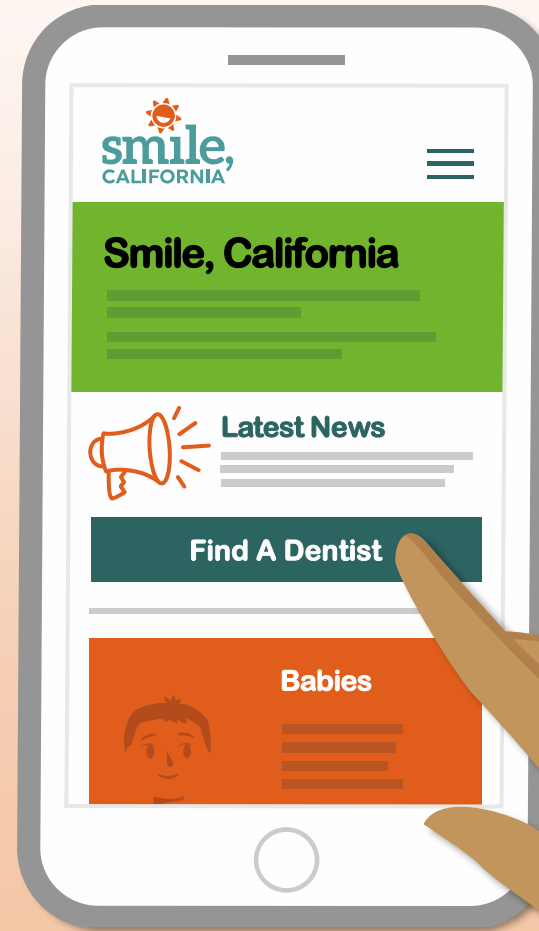
Children who develop a familiar relationship with their dentist, are less likely to experience dental anxiety and are more likely to visit the dentist regularly into adulthood.



Find A Dental Home Today!



Visit **SmileCalifornia.org** and click the Find A Dentist button.



Medi-Cal Has Dental Covered

Medi-Cal Dental covers:

- dental check-ups,
- fluoride varnishes
- sealants

for children and teens up to 21 years of age.

SERVICES	BABIES	KIDS	TEENS	ADULTS
Exam*	✓	✓	✓	✓
X-rays	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teeth cleaning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fluoride varnish	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fillings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tooth removal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emergency services	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Molar sealants**		✓	✓	
Root canals		✓	✓	✓
Orthodontics (braces)***			✓	
Crowns****			✓	✓
Partial and full dentures			✓	✓
Denture relines			✓	✓
Scaling and root planing			✓	✓

*Free or low-cost check-ups every six months for members under the age of 21, every 12 months for members over the age of 21.

**Molar sealants are covered for teens up to age 21.

***For those who qualify.

****Crowns on molars or premolars (back teeth) may be covered in some cases.

Medi-Cal Has Dental Covered



Medi-Cal Dental provides free or low-cost check-ups every six months for members under the age of 21 and once every 12 months for members 21 and older.



Under the age of 21



Over the age of 21

Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment



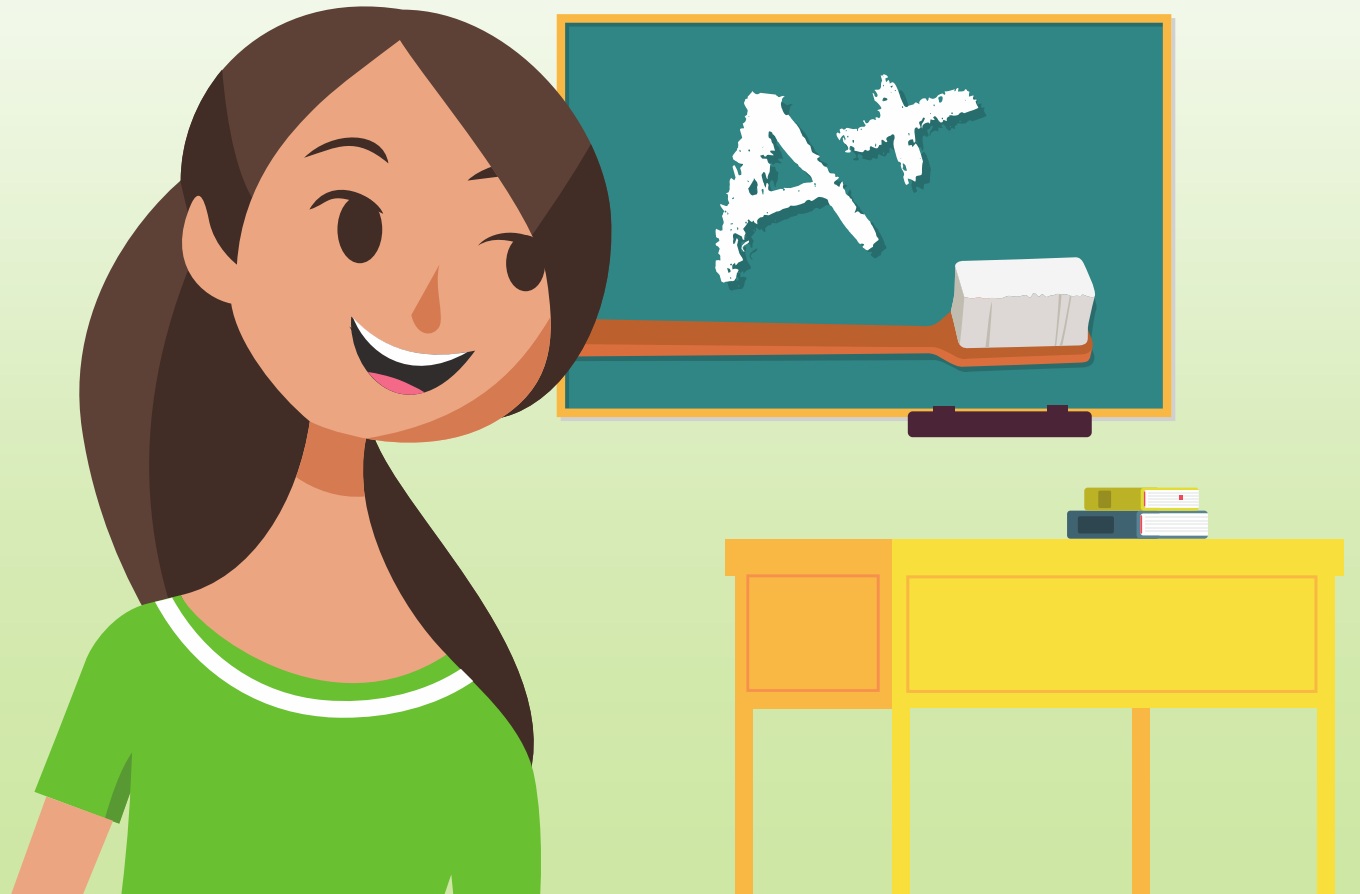
Be sure you schedule your child's dental assessment 12 months before entering public school for the first time or by **May 31st** of their first year (Kindergarten or 1st Grade).

Don't delay and book their dental assessment!



Oral Health and School Success

Help your child have a great school year by developing good oral health habits early and seeking preventive care for a strong, healthy smile.



Oral Health and School Success



When teeth are healthy and pain-free, it's easier to focus and listen, play and share, learn and solve, and grow and succeed!

Oral Health and School Success

Brush 2x a day for 2 minutes and visit the dentist
2x per year with your Medi-Cal Dental benefit.





For more information on oral health and school readiness tips visit **SmileCalifornia.org**

