

FINDING A DENTAL HOME



bright smiles
FROM BIRTH

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) endorse the establishment of dental home in young children to assist in prevention of early childhood caries (ECC). Children assessed to be at high risk for ECC should have an established dental home at 6 months and all children should have a dental home 6 months after the eruption of the first tooth or by 12 months. Dental homes should be accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective. The AAPD recognizes that dental home should provide comprehensive oral health care including acute care and preventive services, comprehensive assessments for oral disease and conditions, individualized preventive dental health programs, anticipatory guidance including proper care of teeth and gingivae and referrals to dental specialists when needed.

Below are resources to assist you in finding dental homes for your families. Physicians are encouraged to reach out to their dental colleagues to create referral resources for families and establish dental homes as soon as possible.

Medicaid/All Kids

DentaQuest is the administrator of the Medicaid dental program in Illinois. It is recommended that families call the toll free number at 888/286-2447 to find referrals for families. DentaQuest will assist the family in finding a dentist that meets their unique needs. You can obtain a list of dentists from their website at www.dentaquestgov.com and select "Find a Dentist". However, many dentists request not be listed on the website and information can be out of date. You can order tear off referral note pads with the toll-free number in English, Spanish, Polish, Chinese, French and Russian by calling 888/286-2447.

Many community clinics now provide dental care. You can search for local health centers at the Illinois Primary Health Care Association at www.iphca.org under "Find a Health Center." The Chicago Dental Association provides a list of community dental clinics in Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties at www.cds.org/find_a_dentist/clinic.html.

Dentists in Your Area

A list of pediatric dentists in your area can be found by visiting the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry website at www.aapd.org/finddentist/.

A list of general and pediatric dentists practicing in your area can be found by visiting the Illinois State Dental Society at www.isds.org/findDentist/index.asp.

Children with Special Health Care Needs

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) has created the Illinois Provider Directory for Children, Young and Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs as resource for referrals for health care professionals who treat this population. This site includes referrals to dentists, orthodontists, oral surgeons and prosthodontists. The directory can be accessed through ICAAP's website at www.illinoisAAP.org or directly at www.illinoisproviderdirectory.com.

American Academy of Pediatrics

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