

# Every Child Needs a Dental Home

## What is a Child's Dental Home?

A Dental Home is a place to take your child for regular dental visits.

## Why Does Your Child Need a Dental Home?

Your child needs a dental home to:

- Help build a lifetime of healthy dental habits and good oral health;
- Find dental problems early, before they hurt;
- Have a place where the dental staff knows your child's special needs and has a record of care;
- Receive sealants, fluoride, and tips to prevent tooth decay; and to
- Know where to call when there's a dental emergency.

## When Should You Find a Dental Home for Your Child?

You should find a dental home for your child by the first birthday, if possible, but it's never too early or too late to find a dental home.

## Tips for Visiting Your Child's Dental Home:

- **Arrive 15 minutes early** with teeth brushed and flossed.
- **Keep all appointments**; if you can't, call at least 2 days ahead to re-schedule.
- **Be positive with your child.** Don't use words like "pain," "hurt," or "shot".
- **Keep children calm and quiet** in the dental office.
- **Ask the dentist and dental staff questions** about your child's oral health and treatment needs.

## Don't let your child be without a Dental Home. To find a dentist:

- For Medi-Cal, contact Denti-Cal at 1-800-322-6384 or <http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/WSI/Bene.jsp?fname=ProvReferral>
- Contact the Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program at your health department <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>
- Contact the California Dental Association at 1-800-CDA-SMILE (232-7645) or [www.cda.org/PublicResources/FindaDentist](http://www.cda.org/PublicResources/FindaDentist).
- Ask friends, family, coworkers about their dental office.
- If you have other dental insurance, ask for a list of dentists from your insurance company.

Call or visit the dental office and talk to staff before choosing a dental home.

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Revised 4/9/13 ADA compliance 12-12-14