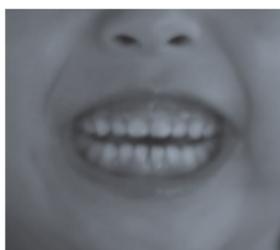


ASK YOUR DENTIST ABOUT

PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

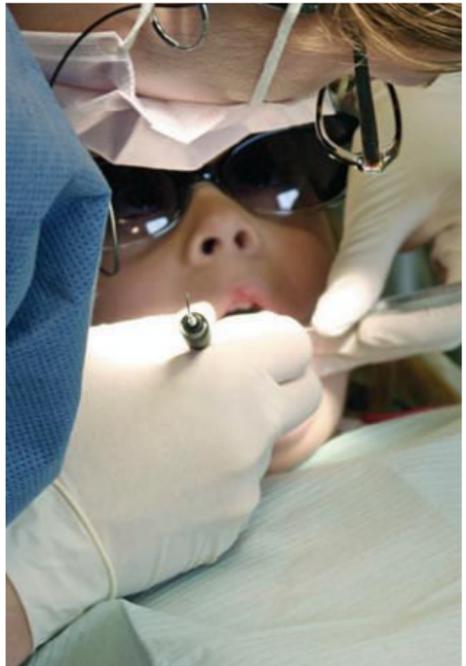


What is preventive dentistry?

brushing
dental development
flossing
fluoride
oral habits
orthodontics
parent involvement
proper diet
sealants
sports safety

P R E V E N T

**Your
pediatric
dentist
practices
preventive
dentistry**



Why is preventive dentistry important?

Preventive dentistry means a healthy smile for your child. Children with healthy mouths chew more easily and gain more nutrients from the foods they eat. They learn to speak more quickly and clearly. They have a better chance of general health, because disease in the mouth can endanger the rest of the body. A healthy mouth is more attractive, giving children confidence in their appearance. Finally, preventive dentistry means less extensive and less expensive treatment for your child.

I V E

DENTISTRY

When should preventive dentistry start?

Preventive dentistry begins with the first tooth. Visit your pediatric dentist at the eruption of the first tooth or by age one. You will learn how to protect your infant's dental health. The earlier the dental visit, the better the chance of preventing dental disease and helping your child build a cavity-free smile.

What role do parents play in prevention?

After evaluating your child's dental health, your pediatric dentist will design a personalized program of home care for your child. This program will include brushing and flossing instructions, diet counseling, and if necessary, fluoride recommendations. By following these directions, you can help give your child a lifetime of healthy habits.

How do pediatric dentists help prevent dental problems?

Tooth cleaning and polishing and fluoride treatments are all part of your child's prevention program. However, there is much more. For example, your pediatric dentist can apply sealants to protect your child from tooth decay, help you select a mouth guard to prevent sports injuries to the face and teeth, and provide early diagnosis and care of orthodontic problems. Your pediatric dentist is uniquely trained to develop a combination of office and home preventive care to insure your child a happy smile.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)

Founded in 1947, the AAPD is a not-for-profit membership association representing the specialty of pediatric dentistry. The AAPD's 7,800 members are primary oral health care providers who offer comprehensive specialty treatment for millions of infants, children, adolescents, and individuals with special health care needs. The AAPD also represents general dentists who treat a significant number of children in their practices. As advocates for children's oral health, the AAPD develops and promotes evidence-based policies and guidelines, fosters research, contributes to scholarly work concerning pediatric oral health, and educates health care providers, policymakers, and the public on ways to improve children's oral health. For further information, please visit the AAPD Web site at <http://www.aapd.org>.

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1700

Chicago, Illinois 60611

(312) 337-2169

aapdinfo@aapd.org

<http://www.aapd.org>



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