



Gwinnett School Smiles



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"FALL for Smiles"

October is National Dental Hygiene Month, and the time to teach children good oral health habits and to reinforce one's own! Dental check-ups are vital for everyone's health and well-being.

Fall finds Oral Health America (OHA) is celebrating their annual campaign, "It's Time to Fall for Smiles". Their campaign promotes the importance of maintaining oral health by having regular dental visits, healthy nutrition, avoidance of tobacco products, and good self care.

Currently, the health department dental program is participating in the Georgia 3rd Grade Dental Survey. A number of Gwinnett Schools were selected at random to participate. We would like to extend our great appreciation for their participation in this important initiative! The data collected will help assure resource allocations where needed the most. It will be used to help make decisions where to target these resources based on this evidence for the children of Georgia, and especially Gwinnett County. Special thanks to W.J. Cooper ES, New Life Academy of Excellence, Winn Holt ES, Knight ES, and Buford Academy of Buford City Schools!

Fall is an excellent time to provide oral health education for your students, parents, and families so they will become more aware of the science behind the link between oral health and overall health. Start the year with healthier smiles and continue good oral health habits all year long! **Healthy smiles are happy smiles!**



Health Department Dental Clinics for Children:

- BUFORD
(770) 614-2427
- LAWRENCEVILLE
(770) 339-5642
- NORCROSS
(770) 638-5758
- NEWTON
(678) 342-8908
- ROCKDALE
(770) 785-4354





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SCHOOLS PLAY A ROLE IN KEEPING KIDS' MOUTHS HEALTHY, SAY PARENTS

CHICAGO, September 1, 2010 - Two-thirds (65%) of parents are looking to schools to help reinforce the importance of oral health, saying it is extremely or very important for schools to teach children about taking care of their teeth, according to a new public opinion survey commissioned by Oral Health America.

"If we want our children to be in school, ready to learn, both parents and schools have a vested interest in working in partnership with dental care providers to teach good habits that will last a lifetime, and keep teeth and mouths healthy," says Beth Truett, President and CEO, Oral Health America. Tooth decay is the number one chronic childhood disease in the U.S., and children lose over 51 million school hours each year due to dental related illness.

According to the survey, children do not report brushing and flossing as often as their parents think they should. In addition, seven in ten parents say they give a brushing reminder on a daily basis, but less than half that number of children (34%) remember hearing their parents give these reminders. Schools are not significantly better at getting the message of dental health across to students. At school, just four in ten (39%) children report learning about oral or dental health in the past year. As they get older, children hear about oral health from both parents and schools less and less. Elementary school students (65%) are far more likely to have received this instruction than middle (36%) and high school (19%) students, despite the fact that 78% of teenagers have experienced tooth decay.

"Parents should commit to spending just two minutes twice a day with younger children to make sure they are not only brushing and flossing their teeth, but doing it right," says Truett. "Older children need to know why they should keep their mouths clean and the affects of poor oral health on appearance and employability. Schools can help by integrating mouth health into health and science classes at all grade levels, explaining oral health's importance to overall health, and demonstrating how plaque affects teeth and gums."

Oral Health America is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to changing lives by connecting communities with resources to increase access to dental care, education and advocacy. The Fall for Smiles Survey sponsored by Oral Healthcare Can't Wait, Plackers, a leading brand of consumer oral care products, and conducted by Harris Interactive®, was released today to kick-off Fall for Smiles, an initiative promoting the importance of self care, regular dental visits, healthy food choices, and tobacco avoidance as part of maintaining a healthy mouth and body. The survey was conducted on-line within the U.S. by Harris interactive on behalf on Oral Health American in May and June 2010 among 1,144 U.S. parents and 1,346 U.S. children ages 8-18.

For more information about Fall for Smiles: www.oralhealthamerica.org. For more information about Oral Healthcare Can't Wait, an initiative of the Dental Trade Alliance: www.oralhealthcarecantwait.com.

¹ Office of the U.S. Surgeon General

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



About Plackers Plackers, a leading brand of consumer oral care products, is a pioneer in dental flossers and other consumer oral care products. Having patented the first disposable dental flosser, Plackers is committed to developing high quality, affordable oral care products with innovative features that includes a comprehensive line of dental flossers, dental accessories, and dental night guards including the Grind No More Dental Night Protector. Plackers holds over 20 patents and is sold in major retailers worldwide. For more information, visit | <http://www.plackers.com>



The Fall for Smiles Quiz

Provided by Oral Health America and Oral Healthcare Can't Wait®



1. True or false: tooth decay is caused by germs that can be passed from one person to another.
2. Name two health conditions that are associated with poor oral health.
3. True or false: a dental sealant is a plastic coating that is often applied to children's teeth to help prevent tooth decay.
4. What is the most common chronic childhood disease?
 - A) Hay Fever
 - B) Asthma
 - C) Tooth Decay
5. What is the most common type of facial injury sustained during participation in sports?

Quiz Answers:
 1. True
 2. Possible answers:
 a. Heart disease
 b. Stroke
 c. Diabetes
 d. Pneumonia
 e. Memory loss
 3. True
 4. C
 5. Dental injuries, and the majority of these dental injuries are preventable through the use of a mouth guard!



Make time for good oral health! Healthy habits are easier than you think. Ask your dental hygienist to find out more.

- American Dental Hygiene Assoc.: <http://www.adha.org/ndhm/index.html>
- ADHA Kidstuff: <http://www.adha.org/kidstuff/index.html>



Your County Health Department's In-School Dental Program

Your health department has an "In-School" dental program especially for children without access to care and those who are left without a safety net by some of the "other" dental programs. Our program can provide oral screenings, cleanings, dental sealants, and fluoride treatments regardless of ability to pay. We would be happy to visit your school!

If one of your students should have an emergency* or just need a dentist, the health department dental clinics are available.

You can be a part of helping these children receive the care they need! To reserve an appointment:

Jennie M. Fleming, RDH, BS, MEd.
 Program Coordinator, Educator, and Liaison

jennie.fleming@qnrhealth.com or (678) 376-3216

*For emergencies, please call the phone number on the front of this brochure for our nearest clinic

Coloring Sheet



FALL FOR SMILES FACTS

Remember to brush your teeth twice a day for two minutes, and floss at least once, too

Visit your dentist for a checkup every 6 months

Make healthy food choices and pick snacks that are nutritious

Always avoid tobacco products