

Head Start Dental Home Initiative

A Dental Home for Every Head Start Child



You Can Never Have Too Many Dentists

Head Start Webinar – March 30, 2010

Learning Objectives

- What are the Head Start dental performance measures?
- What is the Texas Medicaid Dental Periodicity Schedule?
- What is a Dental Home?
- Why is a Dental Home important?
- What is the Head Start Dental Home Initiative?
- What is Head Start's role?
- How will this improve the health outcomes of our Head Start children?



What are the Head Start Dental Performance Measures?

- Within 90 calendar days of the child's entry into Head Start, the grantee and delegate agencies must:
 - Determine if each child has an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care (including dental care)
 - Obtain from a health care professional a determination if the child is up-to-date on dental well child checkups, incorporating the State's EPSDT requirements



What are the Head Start Dental Performance Measures?

- For children not up-to-date, must assist the parents in making the necessary arrangements
- For children who are up-to-date, must ensure that they continue to follow the recommended schedule



What is the Texas Medicaid Dental Periodicity Schedule?

- Routine dental checkups begin at 6 months of age and continue every 6 months through age 20 years
- A routine dental checkup includes:
 - Oral examination by a licensed dentist
 - Cleaning of the teeth
 - Fluoride application
 - X-rays, if needed
 - Establishment of a dental record
 - Establishment of a recall schedule



What is a Dental Home?

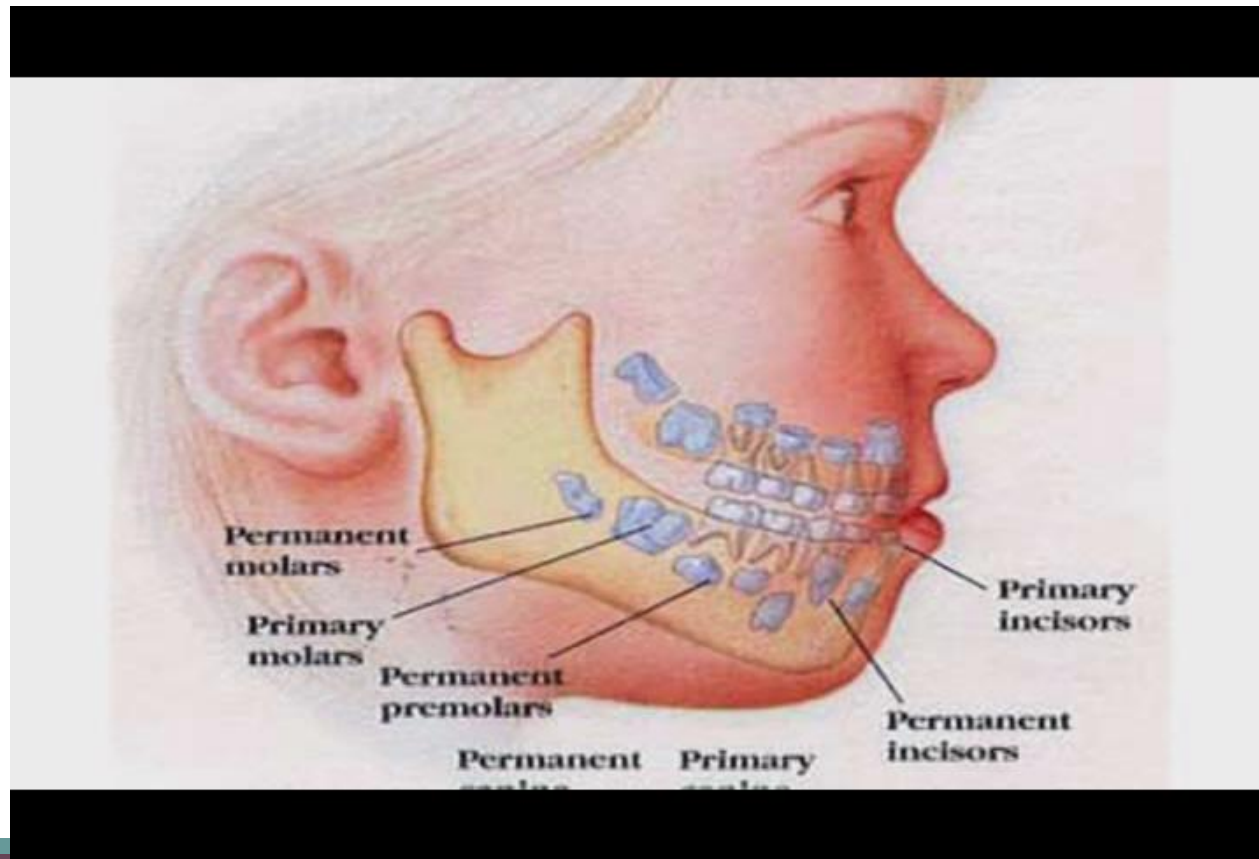
The ongoing relationship between the dentist and the patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way, and includes referral to dental specialists when appropriate.

(American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, 2006)



Why is a Dental Home Important?

- Because baby (primary) teeth are important



Why is a Dental Home Important?

Because in 2007, a representative sampling of Texas Head Start children showed that 26.7% of the children had early childhood caries.



Why is a Dental Home Important?

- The same 2007 sampling showed that 7.6% of the Head Start children had urgent dental needs due to pain, swelling and/or infection



Why is a Dental Home Important?

- Become familiar with the dentist, their staff and office
- Access needed dental care:
 - Routine, such as dental checkups
 - Emergency
- Increase continuity of care
- Decrease duplication of services



What is the Head Start Dental Home Initiative?

- Joint project between the Head Start Bureau and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)
- The primary goal is to establish a dental home for every child participating in Head Start and Early Head Start in the United States



Head Start Dental Home Initiative - Texas

- Texas coordinator – Dr. Paul Kennedy, Jr.
- Kick-off meeting – September 2008
- Initiative coordination meetings between:
 - Organized dentistry – Texas Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Texas Dental Association, Texas Academy of General Dentistry
 - Texas Dental Hygienists' Association
 - Texas State Head Start Collaboration Office and Texas Head Start Grantees
 - Public Health – Oral Health Program at the Texas Department of State Health Services



Head Start Dental Home Initiative - Texas

- Dental Access Needs Assessment completed of statewide Head Start locations
 - High, medium, low, and no dental access needs
- High dental access needs Head Start locations matched to Medicaid dentists



Head Start Dental Home Initiative - Texas

- Getting the word out
 - Texas dentists contacted regarding interests in providing dental homes for Head Start children for additional matching
 - Presentation to the Alliance of the TDA



What is Head Start's Role?

- Establish and maintain good working relationships with multiple dentists in and around Head Start locations
- Invite dentists in your operational areas to visit one of your locations to learn more about Head Start



What is Head Start's Role?

- Support the dental home concept
- Help inform Head Start families about the importance of good oral health

Your Child's Teeth Are Important!

Even medicines have sugar in them so...

- Be sure and clean your child's mouth after giving medicines

To help protect your child's teeth from cavities, do not share:

- Spoons or forks
- Cups
- Bottles
- Toothbrushes
- Pacifiers
- Sippy cups
- Toys

Only give your baby a bottle or sippy cup with water in it when you put the baby to bed at night or for naps.

Your Child's Teeth Are Important!

To protect your child's teeth from cavities, you need to:

- Offer healthy foods and drinks
- Clean your child's mouth after they eat
- Take your child to the dentist for regular visits in the dental home

Be sure and use a very small amount of fluoride toothpaste when cleaning your child's teeth. This is about the right amount to use...

Your care can help keep your child from having cavities like this child has.

Texas Health Steps

EDS Department of State Health Services
#06-18277 Rev 0208



What is Head Start's Role?

- Don't close the door to dentists who are interested in providing dental homes

Please remember, you can never have too many dentists helping meet the oral health needs of the children in your Head Start Program!



How will this Improve the Health Outcomes of our Head Start Children?

- Early and regular access to preventive dental services can reverse early stages of the decay process
- Children who have decay in their baby (primary) teeth are more likely to have decay in their permanent teeth
- To be healthy, you must also have a healthy mouth



Resources

- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Dental Home Initiative

<http://www.aapd.org/headstart/>

- Texas Health Steps literature

<https://secure.thstepsproducts.com/default.asp>



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