



# Head Start Update

AAPD E- News provides the latest information about AAPD's continuing education, new products/services and other news related to the AAPD and Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children: The Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry activities.

## **AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative 2011 Roll-out States**

### **Dentist-Head Start Partnership in Alaska: Working Together to Fight Dental Disease**

### **The Dental Home and Children's Oral Health (for Dental Professionals) now Available**

### **Instructional Video Segments on Oral Health Care for Young Children now Available in the Parent Resource Center**

### **From the Field**

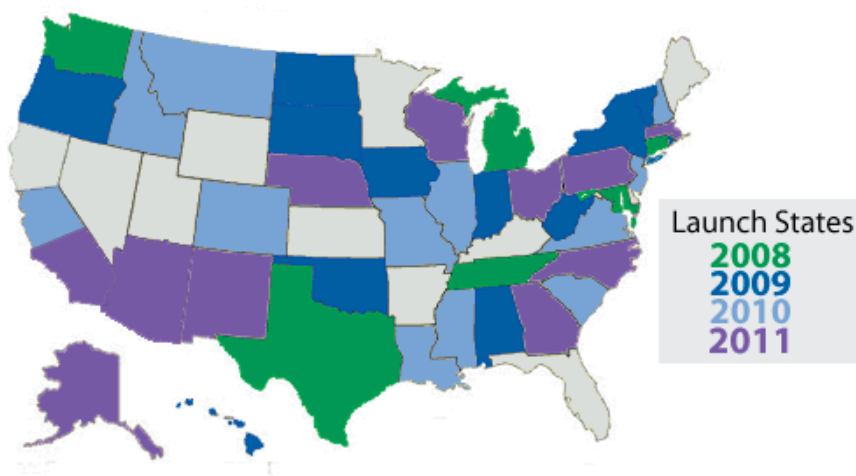
### **In the News**

## **AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative 2011 Roll-out States**

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is pleased to announce the states that will launch the Head Start Dental Home Initiative in the 2010-2011 contract year. The goal of the initiative is the development of a national network of dentists to provide dental homes for Head Start children. Initiative activities are not limited to states that have launched; activities in support of Initiative goals are underway across the country.

The state launch brings together the state leadership advisory team and mentorship teams to participate in activities that will establish a common knowledge base for individuals from the dental and Head Start communities. These teams are vital to the development of collaborative networks throughout the state, networks that will consist of local dentists and HS personnel as well as other community leaders who work together to identify strategies to overcome barriers to HS children's access to dental homes.

Please contact your state leader if you are interested in participating in the initiative in your state. Contact information for all state leaders and regional consultants is located on the AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative's web page: <http://www.aapd.org/headstart>.



**2011 Launch States: Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, California (Southern), Wisconsin.**

## Dentist-Head Start Partnership in Alaska: Working Together to Fight Dental Disease

According to Dirk Shumaker, executive director of Kids' Corps Inc., Kids' Corps Inc., a region X Head Start program in Anchorage, Alaska, has achieved significant positive oral health outcomes for children enrolled at the agency's Mountain View center. As one of KCI's eight Head Start centers, Mountain View provides 20 children with a full-day, full-year Head Start program for 3- and 4-year-olds. The ethnically and racially diverse classroom is located in a census district with the lowest mean household income in the city.

Families who live in Mountain View encounter many barriers to dental care, including a low number of providers in the area and geographic isolation from the rest of the city. Nevertheless, all children at Mountain View Center have a dental home, and the need for urgent dental treatment, once commonplace for Mountain View children, has all but disappeared. According to Dr. Christine Roalofs, no children at the center suffered from untreated caries when she provided examinations at the center during the 2009-2010 school year. Dr. Roalofs, Alaska state leader for the AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative and a pediatric dentist who works tirelessly in underserved communities across the state and who has been visiting KCI Head Start centers for years, has noted that the difference is obvious as soon as the children open their mouths.

Nancy Schjenken, the Mountain View center director and family advocate, gives four reasons for the change:

- A team approach to communication that focuses on a simple message that is delivered in the family's primary language and repeatedly reinforced in a variety of settings
- Strong community partnerships
- Establishing good oral health routines in the classroom
- Involving parents in classroom activities whenever possible

This success story will be featured in the September 2010 issue of *PDT*.

## The Dental Home and Children's Oral Health (for Dental Professionals) now Available



This instructional DVD is intended for use by dental professionals. It outlines causes and effects of early childhood caries, how to perform a quick oral exam on 1-year-olds using the knee-to-knee method, preventive counseling measures for parents, treatment options and information related to the benefits of partnering with Head Start programs. Access this resource on our

website at <http://www.aapd.org/headstart/staffdvd.asp>.

## Instructional Video Segments on Oral Health Care for Young Children now Available in the Parent Resource Center

New instructional videos have been added to the AAPD Parent Resource Center. These short videos contain information of particular interest to parents of young children. Topics include:

How Does Tooth Decay Happen?

The Dental Home

Fluoride

Tooth-brushing

Healthy Food Choices

Oral Health Starts During Pregnancy

A Child's First Dental Visit

Making your Child's Dental Visit a Success

To access these video segments, visit: <http://www.aapd.org/parents/parentvideos.asp>

## From the Field

Dan Kane, Rhode Island: "One mother, who shared her experiences with the Rhode Island State Oral Health Commission, exemplifies the benefit of Head Start and dentists working together to make sure that Head Start children have access to dental care. This mother had been trying unsuccessfully for some time to find dental care for her foster child. When the child entered Head Start, the Head Start program put her into contact with a pediatric dentist who provided her child with all the necessary care. If not for the combined efforts of AAPD and Head Start, this mom would have still been floundering. It was wonderful to hear her express her gratitude to the Commission."

Doug Keck, Connecticut: "Over the past two and one-half years, the number of providers that treat Medicaid recipients has increased from 300 to approximately 1,100 which is testament to the efforts of the Connecticut State Dental Association, the Department of Public Health, The Department of Social Services, the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (ASO), and with a little help from me. To date, I have recruited 30 pediatric dentists and 12 general dentists specifically to provide dental homes for the Head Start children in our state. This has been a rewarding experience, although I cannot take sole responsibility for the incredible provider recruitment that has occurred in Connecticut. At a recent meeting, it was declared that 'Connecticut no longer has an access to dental care problem, it is now a problem of utilization of services.'"

Brent Holman, North Dakota: "The North Dakota AAPD Head Start Dental Home Initiative Leadership Team conducted site visits last year to the four Region XI Head Start sites and to their associated dental clinics. These visits have stimulated a state-wide interest in improving access to dental care in those areas. These site visits have already yielded the following results:

- Executive Director of the North Dakota Dental Association Joe Cichy is now involved with the ADA on Tribal issues in this area.
- A representative of the State Office of Tribal Affairs attended the last two site visits and now dentistry is listed as a top priority for their office (a part of the Governor's Executive team).
- State Health Officer Dr. Terry Dwelle has increased his interest in improving access to care at the Tribal sites, and has re-enforced his commitment to work with the NDDA to find solutions in this area generally."

## Use of Fluoride Key to Healthy Teeth

Fluoride is very important in keeping teeth strong and protecting them against cavities.

Before teeth begin to come into a child's mouth, the fluoride that he or she eats and drinks is strengthening the outer layer of the teeth. After teeth appear in the mouth, fluoride works with saliva to strengthen the outer layer of the teeth and helps to rebuild teeth after an "acid attack." These attacks occur when we eat or drink sugar, and decay-causing bacteria in our mouths use the sugar to make acid that wears down teeth.

Children can get fluoride from many sources including drinking water that has natural or added fluoride, from brushing with fluoride toothpaste, and from dentists and or other health care providers (e.g., physicians or dental hygienists).

For more information on the importance of fluoride, please visit our website to review the AAPD fluoride policy: [http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/P\\_FluorideUse.pdf](http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_FluorideUse.pdf)

## In the News

Dr. Jim Crall, project director for the AAPD Head start Dental Home Initiative, and Dr. Lindsey Robinson, pediatric dentist, provided information to The Fiscal Times for their article entitled, "Kids and Dental Health: Rising Costs and Struggling State Programs a Dangerous Mix." Follow this link to learn more about how the age one visit can reduce the overall cost of dental care:

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Issues/Health-Care/2010/07/20/Lack-of-Dental-Care-is-Costing-a-Bundle.aspx>