

Oral Health IQ: Children Need to Go to the Dentist by Age 1

This column on oral health can be used for your own internal newsletters or other employee communications.

Only eight percent of Iowa children see their family dentist by age 1.¹ That's a staggering fact when it's recommended that children should go to the dentist within six months of getting their first tooth — and no later than their first birthday.²

“Tooth decay is nearly 100 percent preventable. But to help prevent cavities, it's important to begin good oral health habits, like visiting the dentist, when children are very young,” said Dr. Ed Schooley, dental director for Delta Dental of Iowa.

By visiting the dentist by age 1, the child and parent establish a relationship with a dentist, which can help set a foundation for good dental health care and habits. Studies show that early preventive dental care, such as check-ups and cleanings, can not only save in future dental treatment costs, but also alleviate the pain and suffering that can result from untreated oral health issues.

The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation is running a Dentist By 1™ public service campaign to educate Iowa parents about the benefits of taking their children to the dentist by age 1. The campaign website DentistBy1.com provides more information about the importance of visiting the dentist from a young age and how to care for young children's teeth.

¹ Delta Dental of Iowa 2012 Claims Data.

² American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Dental Association.