

Did You Know ?

- » Early childhood caries is the most common chronic childhood disease.
- » Tooth decay is the most prevalent unmet health care need in U.S. children.
- » Poor oral health in young children is associated with failure to thrive.
- » Early childhood caries is:
 - an infectious disease
 - a diet-mediated disease



Dental Health Program
Virginia Department of Health
109 Governor Street, 8th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219



Bright Smiles For Babies

Virginia Oral Health Partnership for Children

Preventing Early Childhood Caries



You Can Help !!

VDH
VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment
Dental Health Program

www.vahealth.org/dental

Funded by Maternal and Child Health Bureau
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Why Provide Oral Health Preventive Services

» **Early childhood caries (tooth decay) is a preventable disease.**

» Most children do not see a dentist before age 3.

You have regular access to these children.

» The services are easily incorporated into **well-child visits** for children under age 3.

» **Medicaid reimburses** medical providers for fluoride varnish application for eligible children.

» You will develop skills in:

- Oral screening
- Fluoride varnish application
- Education of parents
- Dental referral



Frequently Asked Questions

Who provides the training?

The Virginia Department of Health provides the training free of charge. It takes 2 hours and can be done on-site in your office.

Who can provide the services in my office?

Physician, PA, NP, RN, LPN

Who is eligible for this program?

- » Children from 6 months to 3 years of age
- » Children from low income families
- » Children with special health care needs
- » Children who are Medicaid-enrolled, including Fee-for-Service and Managed Care

How long does it take to apply fluoride varnish?

- » It usually takes less than one minute, depending on the child's age.



Bright Smiles

For Babies

Virginia Oral Health Partnership for Children

Training and contact information:

The Virginia Department of Health provides training to medical offices so that you can provide the oral health services that your patients need.

The training includes:

- 2 hour power point presentation
- Hands-on training
- Ongoing technical assistance
- Medicaid billing instructions
- Start-up supplies

Please contact:

Susan Pharr, RDH, MPH
Early Child Oral Health Coordinator
Dental Health Program
Virginia Department of Health
804-864-7782
Susan.Pharr@vdh.virginia.gov