



# The Who, Where, What, Why, When, and How of Oral Health in At-Risk Populations Served by the ABCD Program



## Who?

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Ages 0-13 enrolled in Medicaid

## Where?

Washington State

## What?

Poor dental health such as tooth decay or loss in infancy or early childhood can lead to:

- Lower School Performance and Mental Well-Being
- Impaired Speech Development
- Improper Growth of Adult Teeth and Dysfunction of Teeth and Jaw
- Reduced Ability to Eat, Sleep, and Function without Pain



## Why?

Children and youth that have special health care needs such as disabilities or handicaps, chronic illness or conditions, health-related behavioral or educational problems, or have a high risk of developing one, are at higher risk for untreated tooth decay, tooth loss, and other oral disease due to factors such as:

- Transportation Issues
- Lack of Dentists in their Area with Necessary Skills to Treat Them
- Children Being Unable to Cooperate During Exams Because of Oral Aversion or Fear
- Functional Limitations in Self-Care

## When?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, dental homes should be established by a child's first birthday, especially for those who are at high risk of dental caries.

## How?

There are many resources available to parents of CYSHCN! See the back page for more details.

# Resources Available to Parents of CYSHCN:

## [Access to Baby and Child Dentistry](#)

- Works to connect low-income families with dentists who have special training working with children as well as provide resources and education on the importance of preventing tooth decay

## [Arcora Foundation](#)

- Works to expand dental coverage for lower-income families
- Supports the ABCD program
- Runs the SmileMobile which provides dental care to young children in underserved communities
- Dentist Link – connects people regardless of insurance status to dentists

## [Head Start](#)

- Serves low-income children ages 0-5. Provides healthy breakfast and lunch as well as dental screenings and disability services
- Uses Cavity Free Kids – oral health education for young children to support good oral health practice at home

## [National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center](#)

- Provides brochures in multiple languages about how important oral hygiene and health is
- Accessible to non-English speakers and those with low English literacy

## [ParentHelp123](#)

- Helps Washington families find resources in their area, linking them to accessible dental services, healthcare, and more

## [University of Washington Center for Pediatric Dentistry](#)

- Clinic that accepts Medicaid and has specialized services for CYSHCN. They also employ social workers to help with transportation, financial aid, and interpretation for non-English speakers

## [Washington State Dental Association Special Needs Directory](#)

- Provides a list of dentists that are trained to provide care to patients with special needs. Includes filters for Medicaid, different age groups, different conditions, counties, and languages spoken in the clinic

## [Washington State Health Care Authority](#)

- Covers routine exams, cleaning, X-rays, sealants, fillings, crowns, fluoride application, extractions, and orthodontic services to children
- Purchases health care for Washington residents through Medicaid, helping to ensure that residents have access to better healthcare at a low cost