

Welcome to the ABCD Program

About the ABCD Program

We match Medicaid-eligible children, under age 6, to a dentist. All you need is your child's ProviderOne Medical Services Card and your promise that you will follow the dentist's instructions. Remember, first dental visit by first birthday.

Who is eligible?

- All children, zero to five years-of-age,
- With a DSHS ProviderOne Services Card,
- Who live in Washington State.

What ABCD will do:

- Give your child a great start in life by making sure all baby teeth are healthy.
- Provide a positive dental experience.
- Prevent your child from later experiencing the pain of dental disease.

ABCD benefits for your child:

- Three fluoride varnish applications per year
- Two dental examinations per year
- Two parent education sessions per year
- Dental care as needed

Dental Dos

Before the Visit:

- Do keep from using the dentist as a threat.
- Do keep from using words such as "hurt," "pain," or "brave" when talking about the visit to the dentist.
- Do keep from talking about bad dental visits you may have had in front of your child.
- Do present the first visit in a good light. Let the dentist do most of the explaining about what will be done.
- Do keep friends and older brothers and sisters from trying to scare your child about the dentist.

At the Office:

- Do bring your ProviderOne Services Card to every appointment.**
- Do stay in the waiting room if requested to do so by the dentist (usually, however, parents are invited into the treatment room).
- Do tell the dentist about any bad dental visits and/or fears your child has had.
- Do present clean teeth and a clean body to the dentist.
- Do carry with you a means of disposing of dirty diapers.
- Do bring only the child who has an appointment to the dentist's office (if possible).
- Do ask your dentist about fluoride drops or tablets.
- Do ask your dentist how many visits your child will need each year (two to three is common).
- Do let your dentist know if your address and telephone number have changed.



Always working for a safer and healthier community

Education to parents at the time of enrollment

- ❑ **Call right away:** Call a dentist to make your child's appointment right away – this is the first step and it's up to you.
- ❑ **List of dentists:** The dental list given to you is arranged in zip code order rather than by alphabetical order. Perhaps you might choose an office close to your home or work but you're free to choose any provider.
- ❑ **Identify as ABCD:** When calling the dental office for the first appointment, be sure to tell the office that your child is an "ABCD kid."
- ❑ **Bring ProviderOne card:** At EVERY appointment, bring your child's ProviderOne Services Card.
- ❑ **Date of return:** Make sure you know when your child is supposed to go back for the next appointment. Some offices send you a reminder, some call, some tell you to call in six months – every office does this differently.
- ❑ **Change/cancel appointment:** If you must change or cancel an appointment, call 24 hours in advance. The dental offices are not obligated to keep the child as a patient if appointments are missed.
- ❑ **Address/phone change:** If your address or phone number changes, please notify ABCD at 509.324.1478.
- ❑ **Prevention:** This is a PREVENTIVE program for your child, designed to avoid dental disease and decay before it ever begins.
- ❑ **When to go:** You should make your child's first dental appointment when the first teeth appear, at least by age one year.
- ❑ **Number of visits:** Your child should be seen two to three times a year, every year – even if teeth are healthy. This will help them stay healthy.
- ❑ **Fluoride:** Is your child on fluoride drops or tablets? The dentist can prescribe fluoride, as can the medical doctor. Fluoride drops/tablets are taken internally, meaning they work from the inside-out. Fluoride varnish, on the other hand, does not enter the system. It is applied directly to the enamel of the tooth and works from the outside-in.



Oral Health Program

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