

# A DENTAL HOME

WHY IS IT  
IMPORTANT?

Children who have a dental home are more likely to receive appropriate preventive and routine oral health care



**A DENTAL HOME INCLUDES ALL ASPECTS OF ORAL HEALTH THAT RESULT FROM THE INTERACTION OF THE PATIENT, PARENTS, NON-DENTAL PROFESSIONALS, AND DENTAL PROFESSIONALS.**

**CHILDREN WHO HAVE A DENTAL HOME ARE MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE APPROPRIATE PREVENTIVE AND ROUTINE ORAL HEALTH CARE**

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) supports the concept of a dental home for all infants, children, adolescents, and persons with special health care needs. The dental home is inclusive of all aspects of oral health that result from the

interaction of the patient, parents, non-dental professionals, and dental professionals. Establishment of the dental home is initiated by the identification and interaction of these individuals, resulting in a heightened awareness of all issues impacting the patient's oral health. This concept is derived from the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) definition of a medical home which states pediatric primary health care is best delivered where comprehensive, continuously-accessible, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective care is available and delivered or supervised by qualified child health specialists.

Children who have a dental home are more likely to receive appropriate preventive and routine oral health care. Referral by the primary care physician or health provider has been recommended, based on risk assessment, as early as 6 months of age, 6 months after the first tooth erupts, and no later than 12 months of age. Furthermore, subsequent periodicity of reappointment is based upon risk assessment. This provides time-critical opportunities to implement preventive health practices and reduce the child's risk of preventable dental/oral disease.

**THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY RECOMMENDS A DENTAL HOME BE ESTABLISHED NO LATER THAN 12 MONTHS OF AGE.**

Coastal Maine Pediatric Dentistry would love to be your child's dental home. We offer a safe, comfortable, and friendly environment for your child to both have their first experience, and to serve them through their teen aged years. We have a beautiful, newly renovated, and state of the art facility to assist us in working with you to keep your child's smile beautiful and healthy for years to come. We want to help them establish habits that lead to a lifetime of excellent oral hygiene.