



Don't forget to schedule your child's required dental assessment!

What is the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA)?

To make sure your child is ready for school, California law requires that children have a dental assessment by **May 31** in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is their first year in public school.

Why is it important?

Poor oral health can affect a child's attendance, grades and overall performance in school. The KOHA helps ensure children are healthy and ready for a successful school year.

SCHOOL READINESS FACTS:

- Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't.
- Children with cavities may also have difficulty eating, talking, and concentrating in school.
- Healthy smiles make children feel confident and good about themselves.
- Establishing good oral health habits in childhood helps create a lifetime of healthy smiles.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE KOHA:

- Look out for a registration form that will be distributed when you register your child for school.
- Visit or find your dental home.
- Complete the dental assessment 12 months before entering public school for the first time or by **May 31st** of their first year (Kindergarten or 1st Grade).

1 in 5 children have untreated tooth decay in California.*

Why is it important to have a dental home?

- It allows the dentist to establish a relationship with your family.
- It gives the dentist consistent opportunities to provide preventive treatment and find small issues before they become big.
- Children who develop a familiar relationship with their dentist are less likely to experience dental anxiety and are more likely to visit the dentist regularly into adulthood.

Medi-Cal covers dental check-ups every 6 months for children.



Visit SmileCalifornia.org to find your child's dental home today.