

# What is a Dental Home?



#### A "Dental Home" is a place where children and adults can receive regular, comprehensive and compassionate dental care for life

Families are encouraged to establish and build a relationship with their dental office – an environment that encourages members of the family to have regular dental checkups to ensure their oral health is in check to maintain a clean, healthy and happy mouth.

## Benefits of establishing a Dental Home:

- Patients become familiar and comfortable with the dentist and his office staff, and can ask questions to learn how to properly maintain a healthy mouth
- Promotes early and regular access to preventive and routine dental services
- Increases continuity of care, prevention, dental and overall health
- Decreases duplication of dental services caused by seeking dental care from multiple dental offices

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Dental Association (ADA), and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) all recommend establishing a Dental Home for your child by one year of age. Children who have a dental home are more likely to receive appropriate preventive and routine care. A well-established Dental Home also includes appropriate referrals to dental specialists.

## With the rising incidence of tooth decay among

young children, having a Dental Home can be essential in promoting preventive care. In addition to implementing lifelong oral health at home, establishing and maintaining an ongoing relationship between the dentist and the patient is imperative. The Dental Home is an open door to of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way.

**fact:** Children learn Oral Health from their parents

> ••• Your home is your second Dental Home - Establish a daily routine of brushing your teeth in the morning and before bed and set aside a time to floss your teeth. Teach your children to do the same.

### Making members shine, one smile at a time<sup>™</sup>