Healthy Teeth, Happy Start

Get your child ready for school with a dental checkup!

Your Child's Dental Checkup: Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA)

As children start school, we want to make sure they are healthy and ready to learn, so don't forget about the health of their teeth! Tooth decay (cavities) is one of the most common reasons children miss school. Untreated cavities can make it hard for children to learn and succeed in school because they can cause pain, swelling, and infection. The Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) helps set your child up for success in the classroom by checking for dental problems and getting them the dental care they need to be healthy and ready for school.

How to complete the KOHA:

1. Look out for the required assessment form that will be distributed by your child's school during kindergarten registration. If you do not receive the assessment form, ask your child's school for one or visit www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/oralhlthassess.doc.

2. If you do not have a dentist for your child, use the *SJ TEETH Find a Dentist* tool at sjteeth.org/Find-a-Dentist to search for a dentist in your area.

3. Complete the dental checkup before or during the child's first year of public school.

4. Remember to bring the assessment form to the appointment.

5. Return the completed form to your child's school.

What is the KOHA?

The KOHA is a California law (AB 1433) that requires children to get a dental checkup during the year they enter public school for the first time (either kindergarten or first grade).
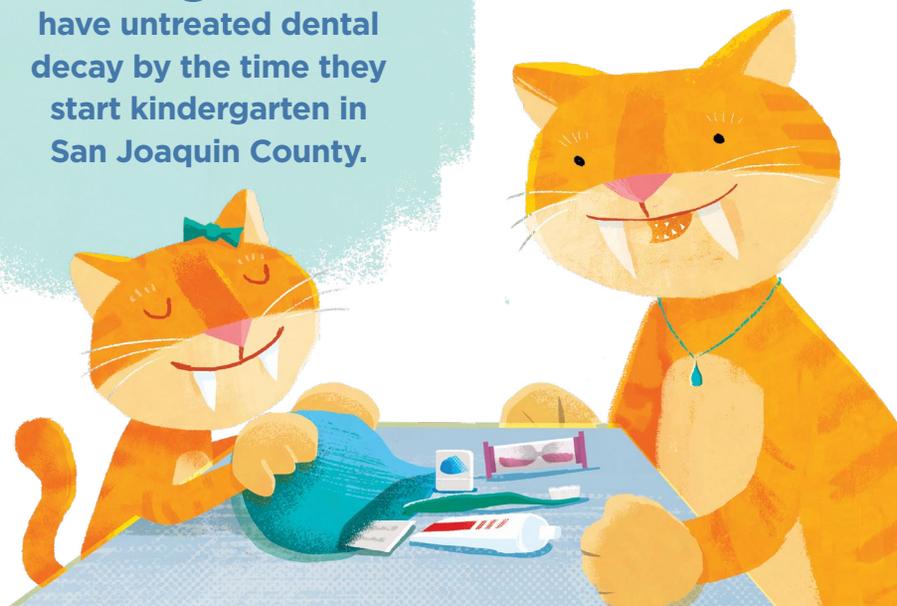
- This dental checkup should be done within 12 months before starting school or by **May 31 of the child's first year in public school**.

- KOHA must be done by a licensed dental professional to see if your child has dental problems.

- KOHA is a part of school readiness activities for kindergarten.

How do I pay for the KOHA?

Any exam or checkup will meet the KOHA requirement and these are covered by dental insurance plans. The Medi-Cal program includes dental care coverage, too. If your child does not have private insurance or qualify for Medi-Cal, they may be able to get a dental checkup at low, or no-cost through a local community clinic. For more information on low or no-cost options, please contact:

Community Medical Centers (209) 636-5555
Golden Valley Health Centers (209) 492-2622

1 in 5 children have untreated dental decay by the time they start kindergarten in San Joaquin County.

SJTEETH.org

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