

First Tooth General FAQs



What happens if we hire new staff and would like them to apply fluoride varnish but they missed the First Tooth Training?

New staff can take the online Smiles for Life curriculum, or can be trained to apply fluoride varnish by someone in the office who knows how to apply fluoride varnish.

Is the training appropriate for all staff or best for medical providers?

First Tooth training is recommended for all staff to attend. First Tooth training is designed to help the entire staff implement systemic change in the work flow of the office- from ordering supplies to providing preventive services to billing for these services.

How much time will First Tooth practices add to each well child visit?

As with any addition to services provided, initially adding preventive oral health practices may initially take up to 7 minutes. With practice, however, it should take no more than a couple of minutes.

How can First Tooth be integrated into our workflow so the doctor or physician does not have to do all the First Tooth parts – education, anticipatory guidance, assessment, varnish application, and referral?

The First Tooth training includes suggestions for how to easily integrate preventive oral health practices so that all members of the team play a role in work flow changes.

At what age should children start seeing a dentist?

It is recommended that children should see a dental provider (a dentist or expanded practice dental hygienist) as early as 9 months if they are at high risk of dental disease, and preferably all children should see a dental provider by their first birthday. The dental provider may be a member of the dental team working outside the dental office, i.e. in schools, WIC, or in a medical office.

If dentists in my area do not want to see children younger than 3, are there other options I can offer their parents for their child's dental care?

If access to dental care for children under age 3 is difficult, the medical provider may be the child's best option for keeping the child healthy. First Tooth training teaches medical providers to assess the risk of disease and oral health of the child, as well as provide preventive fluoride varnish and behavior modification techniques to prevent oral disease. If a child under age 3 has significant cavities, a referral to a pediatric dentist may be necessary.