



# Don't forget to schedule your child's required dental check-up!

## 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 check-up 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 a dental check-up 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** kids 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 checkups every 6 months for children.**



Visit [SmileCalifornia.org](https://SmileCalifornia.org) to find your child's dental home today.