

To learn more about our "First Dental Visit by Age One" campaign, visit www.azsmiles.org

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**First Dental Visit
by Age One**
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The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) recognizes the importance of **early intervention and treatment of infant dental disease**. The “First Dental Visit by Age One” campaign encourages dentists, pediatricians and their staff to raise awareness of this issue and participate in infant dental care.

In Arizona, 34% of children have experienced tooth decay by the age of three.* For this reason, children should receive their **first dental exam by their first birthday**.

This is supported by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Dental Association, the Arizona Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Arizona Dental Association. Dental checkups should occur at least twice each consecutive year.



An easy way to do an infant dental exam is the **“knee-to-knee”** technique. The infant is placed on the laps of the provider and child’s caregiver providing good control, direct visibility and a simple approach for application of fluoride varnish on a high risk child.

Preventive infant dental care is a win-win situation for both providers and patients because:

- It helps eliminate fear of the dentist.
- It establishes a “dental home” for the child.
- It implements dental health habits that help prevent oral disease.
- It has the potential to build and expand your practice.

For more information on infant dental exams, visit

www.azsmiles.org

* Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health Services, Public Health Prevention Services, Office of Oral Health: Arizona Dental Survey of Preschool Children, 1994-1995.

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