

Early Childhood Educators,

February 2018 is National Children's Dental Health Month. This month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, teachers and caregivers to promote the benefits of good oral health to children and adults. Attitudes and habits established at an early age are critical in maintaining good oral health throughout life. By participating in the annual celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, members of the dental team, parents, teachers and others can help keep children's smiles beautiful now and for years to come. We would like to help you promote this important health focus through resources and activities. Here are some resources and ideas:

1. Activity sheets, coloring pages, and posters are available at ADA.org/ncdhm
2. Press release templates are available at ADA.org/ncdhm
3. Host a coloring contest around oral health
4. Contact a local dentist's office to visit the school for an education day. Need help locating a participating dentist or hygienist? Contact Molly.Phares@arkansas.gov with the Office of Oral Health.
5. Are you hosting an education day? The Office of Oral Health with the Arkansas Department of Health will be providing toothbrush kits (tooth brush, paste, and floss) free of charge *while supplies last*.
 - a. Please email Donna.Miller@arkansas.gov to provide the number of kits needed and your plans for oral health education.
 - b. The office will provide you the details on how to pick up your toothbrush kits.
6. Create an oral health bulletin board with brochures, tips, health messages and a list of resources or referrals as a simple way to promote oral health.
7. Use AETN's Healthy Teeth toolkit: <https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/teeth>
8. Engage parents with *One by One* education materials to get infants and small children connected to a dental home. Molly.Phares@arkansas.gov will be your contact for this resource.
9. Host an oral health fair during another event you are hosting
10. Healthy eating and smoke cessation are important pieces of good oral health so don't hesitate to include these topics.
11. Be inclusive: [A caregivers guide](#) provides tips and information for people with intellectual disabilities
12. America's ToothFairy Outreach Resource Toolkit: includes a magnetic mouth and set of oral health themed magnets with lesson plans. In addition you will receive 50 toothbrushes and 50 printed activity sheet: <http://www.ncohf.org/resource-toolkit-application/>

Thank you for promoting Children's Dental Health Month,



Donna Bailey, RDH
Chairman, Arkansas Oral Health Coalition

**Requests for resources via email are open starting January 8th.*