Teeth FIRST!

Creating healthy smiles for a lifetime.

Parents: Finding A Dentist For Your Child

It's never too soon for families to team up with a dentist to make a child's first teeth a priority from the start. **Find a dentist for your child today!**

Dentists Are Here To Help

- Both general dentists and pediatric dentists are trained to care for young children and will be patient and caring toward your child.
- General dentists treat people of all ages, however, some general dentists don't see children under the age of three. If your child is over the age of three, there's a good chance that the dentist you see will agree to see your child too. If your child is younger than age three, you may need to call a few dentists before you find one who will see your child.
- Pediatric dentists treat only children, just as pediatricians are medical doctors who treat only children. Pediatric dentists have special training to treat children from when they are infants through their teenage years.

Ways to Find a Dentist

There are many ways to find either a general dentist who treats young children or a pediatric dentist.

You can:
- ask your child's doctor
- ask your general dentist
- ask friends and family
- call your dental or health insurance company

You will need to find a dentist that takes your dental coverage. While some dentists may accept your dental coverage, they may not be accepting new patients at the time. Keep calling different dentists until you find one that will see your child. If you don't have dental coverage, you can get low cost or free care at dental centers throughout Rhode Island. You can find a list of dental centers that provide low cost or free care on our website.

Helpful Tips

- Unless it is an emergency, you can expect that your child's first appointment may be a few weeks or months away.

- Families who are expecting a baby should plan to put their newborn on their dental insurance coverage soon after the baby is born. When you take your baby for a first dental visit after you see a first tooth, the insurance company will already have the baby listed as part of your family. This way, your insurance company will pay for the visit.

- Dental plans may cover different dental services. Check with your plan to see what your insurance will pay for and what your family may have to pay for separately.