TeethFirst! promotes early dental visits for very young children in Rhode Island.

Our Mission:

**TeethFirst! believes**
- Early dental visits put our children on a path to healthy smiles for a lifetime.
- It’s never too soon for dentists and families to team up – making a child’s first teeth a priority from the start.
- Great healthcare requires a team – and dentists are part of everyone’s health care team.
- It takes a community working together to keep our little ones healthy.

**TeethFirst! is for**

**Parents and Families**
- Encourages parents and families to take their children for early dental visits.
- Explains dental coverage and how to find a dentist.
- Identifies dental providers who will care for their children.

**Dental Providers**
- Provides professional development opportunities for dental providers.
- Enhances provider knowledge, skills, and comfort with treating very young children.
- Creates a peer learning network among dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants.

**Health Care Providers**
- Educates health care providers about the importance of oral health.
- Shares resources to build with health care providers’ skills in talking about oral health with their patients.
- Informs health care providers about how to refer their patients to a dentist.

**Community Organizations**
- *WIC, Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care Providers, etc.*
- Educates staff at community organizations that serve families about the importance of oral health.
- Shares resources about oral health for staff and families.
- Informs staff about how to refer families to a dentist.

**Who We Are**

TeethFirst! is a collaborative group of organizations, including:
- American Academy of Pediatrics, RI Chapter
- Delta Dental of Rhode Island
- Medicaid-CHIP State Dental Association
- Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- RI Dental Association
- RI Dental Hygienists’ Association
- RI Dental Assistants Association
- RI Department of Health’s Oral Health Program
- RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services/Medicaid
- RI Health Center Association
- Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
- RI Oral Health Commission
- St. Joseph Pediatric Dental Center
- Samuels Sinclair Dental Center at Rhode Island Hospital
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
- UnitedHealthcare Dental/RIte Smiles
- WIC

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