

# Age 1 Dental champions

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Dental Fun  
Starts at 1!

## WORKING TOGETHER TO CARE FOR BABY TEETH

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)<sup>1</sup>, the American Dental Association (ADA), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) all recommend that children have their first dental visit by Age 1.

At this early visit, dentists perform a brief oral examination, deliver preventive information regarding oral health and development, discuss and demonstrate home care techniques, and provide anticipatory guidance for the child's caregiver.

- The age one visit helps to support a pattern of lifelong oral health care by establishing a dental home, and reduces the need for more complex treatment.
- Children who wait until the ages of 2 or 3 to have their first dental visit are more likely to require restorative and emergency visits.
- Children with a dental visit before age 1 have 40% lower dental costs in their first five years of life compared to children with later visits.
- Late dental visits result in increased cost due to the dental and medical procedures often necessary to combat advanced dental decay. (AAPD)

For More Information Please Visit:

[www.beforethefirsttooth.org](http://www.beforethefirsttooth.org)



MaineHealth

MaineGeneral Health

### PROGRAM GOALS:

From and Before the First Tooth — initiatives that improve the oral health of Maine's infants — have developed the "Age 1 Dental Champions" program to increase the number of children accessing dental care before age 1. The program aims to achieve this goal by:



- Educating parents and community members about the importance establishing a dental home by age 1
- Recognizing the efforts of dentists in Maine who welcome children for early dental visits, specifically at the age of 1 or younger
- Facilitating connections and fostering relationships between potential patients, pediatricians, family medical providers, and local dentist offices

### DETAILS & BENEFITS:

As a benefit of participating in the program, your practice, will be listed on our website where parents and other health care providers will have the opportunity to search for "Age 1 Dental Champion" dentists in the state of Maine.

*Additional benefits include:*

- Improving the outcomes of the youngest patients with unmet oral health needs
- Access to educational materials for parents and caregivers related to the importance of early dental care
- Networking and establishing relationships with other dentists treating children in Maine
- Developing and strengthening a referral network with local pediatricians and family medicine providers in your community

1. "Get It Done By Year One", American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, <http://www.mychildrensteeth.org/assets/2/7/GetItDoneInYearOne.pdf>, December 2017.