



**WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

For Immediate Release

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News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES PARENTS TO REMEMBER CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH

JOLIET – February is Children's Dental Health Month, and the Will County Health Department reminds area parents that promoting good oral health habits early can provide lasting benefits.

Children need adult guidance to develop effective oral health habits. Good dental habits typically result in fewer cavities, less missed school time due to toothaches, and better overall health.

According to statistics provided by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tooth decay is America's most common chronic childhood disease. Parents can help to reduce the potential for tooth decay down the road by scheduling an initial dental visit prior to baby's first birthday.

The Health Department offers the following suggestions to help parents protect their children's teeth:

1. Infants should not be allowed to go to sleep with a bottle of milk, or other liquids (except for water). Sugar, and other materials found in liquids, can promote tooth decay.
2. Children's teeth should be brushed twice daily. Brushing and daily flossing should be supervised until at least the fourth grade.
3. Make sure children brush their teeth with fluoridated toothpaste. Nearly 100 studies conducted on four continents indicate that children and adolescents can reduce cavities by at least 24 percent through brushing regularly with toothpaste containing fluoride.

The Will County Community Health Center (1106 Neal Avenue Joliet), offers a children's dental health program for those who are unable to secure private care. For more information about routine and preventative dental health services provided by the Will County Community Health Center, telephone 815-774-7300.

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