

Gear up for Children's Dental Health

February is National Dental Children's Health Month. Did you know that in 2007 the rate of dental decay rose to one in every three Oregon children*? The Dental Foundation of Oregon (DFO) is determined to improve oral health by providing children's basic oral health services and education through a mobile dental van --- the Tooth Taxi (www.SmileOnOregon.org).

The Tooth Taxi is open to partnering with WIC.



Here is how WIC can partner with the Tooth Taxi:

- Identify when the Tooth Taxi will be in your area (see the Tooth Taxi Schedule 2009 below) and invite them to your clinic (contact information below). The Tooth Taxi is only available in the evening (around 6:30PM) since they visit elementary schools during the day.
- Schedule an evening oral health class where the Tooth Taxi comes and provides either an oral health presentation or "knee-to-knee" exams for your small WIC participants. The Tooth Taxi staff can also provide a presentation to WIC staff. (Again, availability is around 6:30PM.)
- Collaborate with Early Head Start or Head Start and invite the Tooth Taxi to an evening parent meeting to present or provide oral exams.

Other Ways to Promote Oral Health in WIC:

- Refer those graduating WIC participants (those 5 year olds) to their dentist or school-based dental sealant program to get their molars sealed and prevent decay. This is small but significant!
- Contact your local dental society and ask if any dentists or hygienists would be willing to partner with your program and provide resources.
- Add the *Oral Health In-Service* to your nutrition education schedule (sent December, 2008). It can be found on the WIC Web site: www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/wic/docs/in-service_oral_health.pdf
- Supply the *Prevent Early Childhood Cavities* brochures to participants at dental caries risk. Contact Jolene at 971-673-0050 or at Jolene.mcgee@state.or.us for a supply. A copy can be viewed at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/wic/docs/726_prevent_ecc.pdf.

Tooth Taxi Schedule 2009*

*Proposed schedule, subject to change

Date — County — School District (School)

February

2-5 — Lincoln — Lincoln

6 — Marion — Salem Celebration of Smiles

7 — Multnomah — Children's Health Fair (Lynch View Elementary 10:00-2:00)

9-12 — Douglas — Drain - North Douglas SD/Yoncalla

17-20 — Coos — Coos Bay (Madison Elementary)

23-26 — Douglas — Roseburg

27 — Give Kids A Smile! (River Mill School, Estacada)

March

2-5 — Umatilla — Milton-Freewater

9-12 — Umatilla — Stanfield/Hermiston

16-19 — Umatilla — Umatilla (McNary Heights Elementary)

23-27 — Spring Break

30-31 — Sisters of the Road, Portland — LaGrande hygiene students cleanings for homeless

April

1-3 — Multnomah — Oregon Dental Conference, Portland

7-10 — Marion — Jefferson (Mon. 6th no school)

13-16 — Lane — Springfield

20-23 — Lake — North Lake

27-30 — Harney — Harney County

May

4-7 — Malheur — Jordan Valley

11-14 — Grant — Monument

18-21 — Jefferson — Jefferson County

26-28 — Marion — Gervais (Monday 5/25 holiday)

29 — Chip for Teeth!, Portland (Riverside Golf & Country Club)

June

1-4 — Klamath — Klamath County

8-11 — Josephine — Grants Pass

For future Tooth Taxi schedules, go to www.SmileOnOregon.org

To schedule the Tooth Taxi at your WIC clinic after hours contact

Mary Daly, Program Manager at 503-329-8877 or

Mary.Daly@SmileOnOregon.org