

Did you know that cavities are caused by germs that are passed from adult to child?

## First teeth matter!

CDH's **First Teeth Matter** clinic can help reduce the chance of cavities in your child — from your child's first tooth to age three.

Dental caries (tooth decay) is the most chronic disease of childhood. Twenty-four percent of U.S. children between two and four years of age have experienced dental decay.\*



Your child deserves to be cavity-free. We can help.

## CALL US!

ADA COUNTY  
208-327-7450

ELMORE COUNTY  
208-587-4409

VALLEY COUNTY  
208-630-8002



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### Sources:

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

\* Reference: Dye BA, Thornton-Evans G. Trends in oral health by poverty status as measured by Healthy People 2010 objectives. Public Health Rep. 2010;125(6):817-830

## At what age should I bring my child in for dental services?

Children should see a dental professional from the start of their very first tooth or no later than their first birthday.

## Why should I bring my child in before they have several teeth?

“Baby” teeth are important for many reasons — they help children speak clearly and chew naturally, they also aid in forming a path that permanent teeth can follow when they are ready to come through. It is important to begin good healthy mouth practices early in a child’s life because dental problems can begin early.

**It is better to prevent disease, than to treat it.**

Teeth are at risk for cavities as soon as they are visible. The earlier your child receives preventive dental care, the better chance there is of stopping cavities before they start. Learning about and practicing healthy oral habits with your child will help prevent tooth decay.

## What is the First Teeth Matter clinic all about?

The clinic’s goal is to prevent cavities in children — from their first tooth to three years — which is a period before many kids begin to regularly visit a dentist. Our licensed dental hygienist provides parents and caregivers with information about early preventive dental health. When your child turns three and graduates from our program, we can help you find a dental home if you do not already have one.

## What can I expect during an appointment with my child?

During your visit, you will meet with a licensed dental hygienist who will talk with you and do a visual screening of your child’s mouth.

The visit will help determine your child’s risk for developing cavities, include dental health information specific to your child, and the application of dental fluoride varnish. Visits last approximately 20 minutes.



## How will I be billed for a visit?

Central District Health’s First Teeth Matter visits are affordable and open to all families regardless of income and insurance status. A nominal fee is charged to all participants. This fee is covered by Medicaid for eligible children. This program is not eligible for a sliding-fee scale.



# FIRST TEETH MATTER